

UNCLASSIFIED

AD NUMBER

AD387622

CLASSIFICATION CHANGES

TO: **unclassified**

FROM: **confidential**

LIMITATION CHANGES

TO:

**Approved for public release, distribution  
unlimited**

FROM:

**Controlling DoD Organization: Assistant  
Chief of Staff for Force Development  
[Army], Washington, DC 20310.**

AUTHORITY

**30 Jun 1978 per DoDD 5200.10 document  
marking; Adjutant General's Office [Army]  
ltr dtd 29 Apr 1980**

THIS PAGE IS UNCLASSIFIED

# **SECURITY**

---

# **MARKING**

**The classified or limited status of this report applies  
to each page, unless otherwise marked.  
Separate page printouts MUST be marked accordingly.**

---

**THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF  
THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE LAWS, TITLE 18,  
U.S.C., SECTIONS 793 AND 794. THE TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF  
ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY  
LAW.**

**NOTICE: When government or other drawings, specifications or other  
data are used for any purpose other than in connection with a defi-  
nitely related government procurement operation, the U. S. Government  
thereby incurs no responsibility, nor any obligation whatsoever; and  
the fact that the Government may have formulated, furnished, or in any  
way supplied the said drawings, specifications, or other data is not  
to be regarded by implication or otherwise as in any manner licensing  
the holder or any other person or corporation, or conveying any rights  
or permission to manufacture, use or sell any patented invention that  
may in any way be related thereto.**

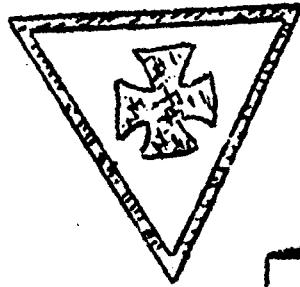
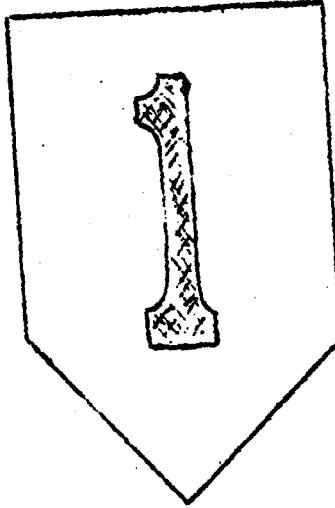
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

# 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION

# COMBAT OPERATION AFTER ACTION REPORT

AD 38762

三



DECLASSIFIED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;  
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 18 YEARS  
DOD DIR 5200.10

# OPERATION BIRMINGHAM

This document contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States. It is loaned to you under Title 18, Espionage Laws, Title 18, U.S. Code, Section 793 and 794. Its contents are confidential. Its transmission or the revelation of its contents in any manner to any unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

**BEST**

**AVAILABLE**

**COPY**



CONFIDENTIAL

2d Battalion, 18th Infantry  
(6 May - 13 May)  
1st Battalion, 23d Infantry  
(13 May - 15 May)  
1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry(-) Lt Col Leonard L Lewane  
(8 May - 10 May)  
1st Battalion, 5th Artillery(-)  
(with Battery B, 2d Battalion,  
13th Artillery attached until  
10 May)  
  
3d Brigade Task Force Col William D Brodbeck  
HHC 3d Brigade(-)  
1st Battalion, 2d Infantry  
(1 May - 6 May; 10 May - 16 May)  
2d Battalion, 2d Infantry Lt Col Jack L Conn  
1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Lt Col Lee S Henry  
(24 April - 3 May)  
2d Battalion, 18th Infantry  
(24 April - 29 April; 6 May - 8 May)  
1st Battalion, 28th Infantry  
(6 May - 10 May; 12 May - 13 May)  
2d Battalion, 23d Infantry Lt Col Kyle W Bowie  
(3 May - 16 May)  
1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry(-)  
(10 May - 11 May)  
Troop A, 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry(-)  
(9 May - 10 May)  
2d Battalion, 33d Artillery(-) Lt Col Frank R Tims  
(with Battery B, 1st Battalion,  
7th Artillery attached)  
  
Support Command Col Freddie W Gramling  
HHC 1st Support Command(-)  
1st Supply and Transport Battalion(-) Lt Col Herbert F Smith  
1st Medical Battalion(-) Maj Richard H Bailey  
701st Maintenance Battalion(-) Lt Col Charles Kolankiewics  
  
Division Troops  
1st Engineer Battalion(-) Lt Col Howard L Sargent  
1st Aviation Battalion Lt Col Harold G Keebaugh  
11th Aviation Battalion (DS) Lt Col John L Lauterbach  
121st Signal Battalion Lt Col R.R. Curington  
1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry(-)  
(24 April - 7 May; 11 May - 16 May)  
Troop A, 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry  
(24 April - 6 May; 10 May - 16 May)  
1st Battalion, 18th Infantry  
(6 May - 10 May)  
1st Battalion, 28th Infantry  
(10 May - 12 May)  
Battery B, 2d Battalion, 13 Artillery  
(10 May - 16 May)  
  
Division Artillery Col Marlin W Camp  
HHC Division Artillery(-)  
8th Battalion, 6th Artillery(-) Lt Col John R McGiffer  
3d Battalion, 319th Airborne Lt Col William H Bordin  
Artillery(-)  
(28 April - 11 May)

CONFIDENTIAL

4. CONFIDENTIAL

Battery A, 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery; Battery A, 2d Battalion, 32d Artillery; Battery C, 2d Battalion, 32d Artillery (6 May - 16 May)  
1st Battalion, 2d Infantry (7 May - 8 May)  
1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry(-) (7 May - 8 May)  
Troop A, 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry (8 May - 9 May)

4. INTELLIGENCE: a. Intelligence Prior to Operation: As Operation BIRMINGHAM began the intelligence picture contained three significant items: (1) War Zone C is the headquarters area of COSVN and an area where enemy forces could be rested, trained, and outfitted for future operations; (2) Vast storage, supply, and medical facilities were located in the zone, mostly along the RACH CAI BAC River on the CAMBODIAN Border; and (3) Only two confirmed battalions were held to be in the area with the possibility that two other battalions were located there. The VC had free use of War Zone C and located many support facilities there. The area is well suited for the enemy hit and run tactics for which he has ample time to plan, train, and rehearse the details of an operation in this area, including the critical withdrawal phase. The VC have a thorough knowledge of the area and a well established intelligence net which provides them with political and combat intelligence and warning of friendly movements. They possess the usual stringent and generally effective security arrangements. The enemy has developed a high degree of self-sufficiency, but currently was receiving external support. His organization and control throughout TAY NINH Province gives him the ability to draw from the people the manpower, intelligence, subsistence, supplies, finances, and most other materials required to support his actions.

Confirmed or probable units operating in the AO included the C230 and C320 Battalions, and two possible unidentified battalions. Also reported and rated F6 were three unidentified regiments, 512 and 531 Battalions, and C335 Company. In addition, the information available on political organizations indicated the following:

COSVN (cover designation: Anh Trong, Chin Nam, and R) Location - WT 9334; Political Officer - Lieutenant General Hai Hau.

TAN BIEN District Committee (Cover # B03) Location - XT 240650; Secretary - Sung.

DIONG MINH CHAU District Committee (Cover # B06) Location - XT 3352; Secretary - San Ban.

(CAODAIST) HOLY SEE District Committee (Cover # B07) Location - XT 185668; Secretary - Ba Dun.

Town Committee (Cover # B08) Location - XT 205550; Secretary - Nguyen Van Ly.

The VC had conducted regimental and possibly multi-regiment size attacks in the MICHELIN Rubber Plantation adjacent to War Zone C. Elements of 271 and 273 Regiments had inflicted heavy casualties on the ARVN 7th Regiment in November. Previous operations by friendly elements in LONG NGUEN, HO BO, and War Zone D areas gave evidence that the VC would defend his base areas.

CONFIDENTIAL

5

CONFIDENTIAL

A primary weakness of the enemy in War Zone C was his dependence of the support of the people. Friendly troops operating within the area could expect to encounter personnel who had been forcibly conscripted or recruited and sent there for training. Most of these personnel could not be expected to be highly motivated and indoctrinated and not yet fully trained or equipped. His infiltration points were subject to interdiction and although his logistical system is effective, it is also primitive and unsuited for sustained operations.

The enemy had the capability to:

- (1) Attack anywhere in War Zone C with up to four main force battalions supported by local force units.
- (2) Reinforce with two main force regiments and two main force battalions within three days.
- (3) Defend his bases with any part of or all the forces listed in (1) and (2).
- (4) Withdraw into safe havens in CAMBODIA.
- (5) Restrict or deny, for limited periods, the use of LOC's by interdiction, sabotage, and ambushes.
- (6) Ambush friendly forces with any of the forces listed in (1) and (2).
- (7) Conduct harassing and sabotage attacks against friendly forces and installations.
- (8) Conduct regimental size attacks against friendly areas in BINH DUONG, TAY NINH, BIEN HOA, and HAU NGHIA Provinces in an attempt to draw friendly forces out of War Zone C and inflict heavy losses on the forces defending these areas.

Based on the intelligence estimate, the VC probable courses of action were:

- (1) Continue to use sabotage, harassing fire, and ambushes to inflict losses, interdict LOC's, and overrun small forces or lightly defended areas.
- (2) Defend larger base areas with forces available, especially when escape is denied, but withdraw from lesser bases. The enemy would probably not oppose large scale operations with major units nor reinforce with units outside the area.
- (3) Evacuate necessary supplies, equipment, political and military headquarters, and large main force units to CAMBODIAN or other secret areas adjacent to War Zone C.
- (4) Start the "Monsoon Offensive", choosing to attack those areas weakened by the deployment of forces, particularly ARVN, or other isolated government bases and Special Forces Camps.

b. Enemy Situation During Operations: The intelligence picture at the beginning of the operation was accurate. Although COSVN installations such as the radio station, military headquarters, and political headquarters were not penetrated by ground troops, little doubt remained that they are located north of the 75 east-west grid line in War Zone C.

CONFIDENTIAL

6  
CONFIDENTIAL

Installations uncovered show that the area is used for recuperation, training, and supply. COSVN logistics bases near the CAMBODIAN Border were hit hard.

On 30 April, an enemy battalion was engaged in vicinity of LO GO (WT 9775). Although not positively identified, it was probably the C230 Main Force Battalion. Intelligence developed during the operation indicated that the 70th Regiment, not previously identified, is probably the military headquarters that controls and administers the various units assigned to War Zone C. C230 Main Force Battalion may be the 3d Battalion subordinate to the 70th Regiment. On 29 April a rallier stated that the 3d Battalion of the 70th Regiment was in the vicinity of LO GO. Up until this time all VC encountered were local force guerrillas.

The frequency and extent of contacts increased, indicating an attempt to discourage U.S. Forces from continuing along the river. Collateral intelligence indicated that the VC were dispersed in widely separated squads and half squads and that their mission was to delay the advance of U.S. Forces. It seemed apparent that what ever major defenses that existed in TAY NINH were further north in the COSVN headquarters area.

Of the 50 suspects detained on 24 April, 5 were confirmed as VC. On 10 May, 1st Battalion, 23th Infantry captured nine men including the squad leader of a 12 man local VC squad. Interrogation revealed that the unit had been formed 15 days previously and had had no military training. On 24 April, a returnee, NGUYEN MINH NHUT, rallied. He reported a base camp called B65 in the vicinity of XT 445540, containing 3,000,000 piastres worth of supplies guarded by 30 men. Twenty sampans were observed by "Lightning Bug" on 1 May and two were sunk there on 12 May. A bridge capable of carrying track traffic was destroyed by air on 13 May and artillery damaged a loading dock in the same vicinity. Two hundred tons of rice and a large building were uncovered by another airstrike. On 15 May an additional 200 tons of rice were uncovered.

On 26 April, training facilities were found including mock-ups of HU-13 helicopters and U.S. howitzers. A number of documents dated in 1965 were found in the base camp, most of which related to the 165A Regiment. The 165A Regiment has been a training unit and this was probably one of its training camps.

By the end of April some reports indicated that 271, 272, 273 Main Force Regiments and 101 NVA Regiment were poised to attack LOC NINH (XU 7309) sometime shortly after 9 May. Other reports indicated that the 271 and 273 Regiments had left War Zone D headed for War Zone C for rest and training and that they left War Zone D abruptly on 24 April, the date Operation BIRMINGHAM began.

By 8 May the enemy in TAY NINH Province appeared to be operating in five general areas:

(1) The seven VC seen in the vicinity of LZ SAINT LO (XT 2797) were probably from the local forces charged with the defense of important COSVN installations north of east-west grid line 90;

(2) East of Route 4 (XT 2069 - 3085) to about the 45 north-south grid line where patrols and visual reconnaissance indicated the location of battalion and possible regimental forces (this could be the area to which 271 or 273 moved, if they did move into War Zone C);

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

(3) Aircraft continued to draw fire from the jungle, the center of which is XT 2367 (the enemy force was believed to be relatively small with the mission of harassing movement along Routes 22 and 4);

(4) From the beginning of the operation the woods vic XT 1743, south of the division base, was the scene of several small but violent contacts with elements of a VC company believed to be C40;

(5) Small groups of guerrillas and possible elements of C230 Battalion continued to mine roads and harass movement with small arms and automatic weapons fire along Route 22 from TAY NINH City south-east to XT 3841 and generally east of the city to the SAIGON River.

Operations in the MICHELIN Plantation area were characterized by the employment of mines and booby traps by the VC. This was consistent with past military experience in this area. No main force units were within the plantation area but reports indicated that the 272 Regiment was probably in the LONG NGUYEN area east of the MICHELIN. A VC killed on 12 May 12 kilometers northwest of XT 663448, had an ID card identifying him as a member of C602. C602 is a cover name for J104 Battalion of 272 Regiment. This indicated the 272 Regiment probably moved in that direction as our forces entered the LONG NGUYEN area. However, there were no contacts with larger VC forces in the final phase through LONG NGUYEN. Large base camps were located, the largest of which was located at XT 659464 and probably serves as the base area of 272 Regiment. The area is laced with trails and has trenches and foxholes scattered throughout.

c. Long Range Reconnaissance Patrols: The Long Range Patrol Detachment, Project Delta, 5th Special Forces Group, operated in support of the division from 7 - 11 May. Many sightings were made of small groups of VC and indications of a large volume of movement throughout the area. On 9 May the teams from Project Delta located a VC battalion vicinity of XT 382351. Sixteen air sorties were employed, with several strikes hitting groups of VC resulting in a probable 150 KBA. This battalion was probably from 271 or 273 Regiments.

Division Long Range Patrols were also used during the operation. Two patrols were infiltrated into the suspected area of COSVN Headquarters vicinity XT 2192. Base areas large enough to support battalion size forces were located, but the teams were discovered and had to fight for extraction.

d. Counterintelligence: OPORD 8-66 called for the development and execution of a deception plan (Annex B). The deception plan area of operations was disseminated during coordination visits with senior advisors to the 5th and 25th ARVN Divisions. A deception Frag Order 42-66 was introduced into ARVN channels by Headquarters, II FFORCEV. The deception scheme was employed to deceive the VC as to the actual area of operations and cause him to move into the actual area of operations. Tight security was maintained on the actual operations plan. Reconnaissance flights over the actual area in central and western TAY NINH Province were kept to a minimum, but increased over the deception plan area. Artillery fires and pre-planned air strikes were planned and requested for assigned zones in the deception plan Frag Order. In addition to the original plan, operations were planned for the plantation area to the southeast of TAY NINH City to focus attention away from the planned four-battalion raid against COSVN Headquarters.

e. Terrain and Weather: War Zone C in the northwest corner of TAY NINH Province is low, flat land with gentle slopes. With the exception

CONFIDENTIAL

8  
CONFIDENTIAL

of NUI BA DEN (ET 2858), all elevations are less than 100 meters, and most less than 50 meters. The area is generally heavily forested with dense jungle and is interspersed with many marshes, wastelands, streams and canals. Vehicular movement is generally restricted to existing roads and trails. National Route 22, Provincial Route 4, and several unnumbered roads comprise the principal road network. Numerous LZs exist but they are subject to flooding during the rainy season. In the jungle areas, concealment is generally excellent and offers some cover. In the rubber plantations, concealment from air observation is excellent because of the tree canopy, but the ground is usually clear of secondary growth. No navigable rivers exist within War Zone C except during the rainy season. Agriculture is the economic base for the area, although some light industry is present. Approximately 10,000 people live in enemy controlled area of TAY NINH Province.

Initial operations in the area indicated the VC were not making extensive use of the area east of the RACH CAI RAC River because of a lack of water, sparse trail activity, and thick jungle.

Weather, initially was hot, dry, and dusty. Temperatures ranged from maximums in the high 90's to minimums in the mid 70's, but with April and May being the transitional months between the dry and wet monsoon seasons, temperatures dropped with the onset of rainy weather. By 8 May, the weather had turned bad and interfered with the completion of a raid against the suspected COSVN Headquarters. The start of the helilift into LZ ST. LO was delayed 1½ hours because of low ceilings and poor visibility. The same factors precluded timely preparation of LZ VERDUN. A series of thunderstorms moved from the southwest across the objective area and the routes to the objective. The weather deteriorated to the point where the operation had to be cancelled. On 8 May, rainfall at the division base was .34 inches with greater amounts falling over the objective area. A total of 3.5 inches had fallen in the previous four days. Cross-country vehicular trafficability was poor, with many roads requiring extensive engineer effort to keep traffic moving.

f. CA/PSYOP:

(1) Concept and execution of PsyWar/CA operations.

(a) The PsyWar/CA operations during Operation BIRTHING were characterized by intense activity aimed at utilization of all available media targeting two major groups. The first of these groups consisted of two targets: the North Vietnamese Regular Force (NVA) and the Viet Cong of SVN. The second group consisted of the civilian populace. This group ran the gamut from GVN supporters to VC sympathizers; generally, they were apathetic and adopted a "wait and see" attitude.

(b) As expected VC military morale was initially high because of lack of previous significant contact with GVN or U.S. units in the past. VC living conditions in the objective area had also been reasonably comfortable. B-52 strikes had previously been made but their success and effect on enemy morale was at first, generally unknown.

(c) The general tenor of approach to COSVN and NVA forces was to remind them of the physical difficulties encountered during their extensive march to the south to liberate a people who do not desire to be liberated. Those forces were exposed to air attacks, sickness, and lack of other than a bare subsistence diet. 1st Infantry Division PsyWar played upon these conditions and the uncertainties that the future held for them. The approach also continued the psychological pressures on the NVA soldiers that were imposed on his travels down the HO CHI MINH Trail.

CONFIDENTIAL

9

## CONFIDENTIAL

The objectives of the PsyWar Campaign against NVA forces were to generate disaffection, defection, reduce combat effectiveness in NVA personnel in NVA and VC units in SVN, by creating dissension between cadre and rank and file, and increasing suspicion and security precautions.

(d) The approach toward the Viet Cong was somewhat different, playing on family separation, cadres from outside South Vietnam, and to exploit the destruction of the myth of VC invincibility. The major appeal to the South Vietnamese was the Chieu Hoi (Open Arms) campaign.

(e) Chieu Hoi interrogations indicate that although some personnel attempted to defect or rally near ARVN and US military base camps or GVN facilities, the best opportunities for defection occur during and immediately following combat. 1st Infantry Division leaflets and loudspeaker appeals were responsive to field requirements and exploited unit identifications and situations and specifically took advantage of ralliers and prisoners gained during the operation. To facilitate the exploitation of prisoners and ralliers for psychological warfare a Specified Information Collection Requirement (SICR) was passed to G2. Division PsyOp shifted from general policy announcements to specific themes, information and directions in the first hours of D-Day. Strip maps showing rallying points were coordinated with Province Officials and publicized on D+1. The National Standard Safe Conduct Pass was used throughout the operation.

(f) Mass leaflet drops on the civilian population were executed immediately after D-Day. A policy statement explaining to the populace why the division was in the area was used initially. Targeting of civilians was closely coordinated with JUSPAO and VN Minister of Information by Mr. Ray Spencer, 1st Infantry Division JUSPAC Representative. Mr. Spencer drafted and coordinated the message for the division. Follow-on leafleting and loudspeaker broadcasts urged the people to remain calm, stay away from operational areas, and to provide information. The division used MEDCAP/CA projects as a focal point to assist G2/HI Teams to gather information. Special attention was paid to VC controlled hamlets with appeals made to VC wives to urge their husbands and sons to rally.

(g) Among the opportunities initially developed for exploitation were destruction of base camps, security complexes and logistical caches; impending danger to civilian cadre in COSVN; U.S. operational victories; and the physical display of U.S. Forces.

(h) Several missions for the first two days were preplanned. Included were aerial leafleting and the division land tail of the convoy handing out Intelligence Information Leaflets. These leaflets were cleared by G2/HI who assured the division the money to pay for the information.

(i) On the evening of D-Day the division began producing locally developed leaflets at a rate of approximately 100,000 every eight hours. Development and coordination was conducted by the establishment of a full time 1st Division G5 Liaison Officer at N1CV Sector Headquarters. The division started using locally prepared leaflets at 1200 hours, D+1.

(j) In addition to media previously mentioned, Vietnamese Information Service (VIS) performed ground loudspeaker missions in coordination with ARVN and U.S. PsyWar Detachments. The use of banners, newspapers and posters prepared by the Division JUSPAO Representative enhanced division coverage. Civic action operations were primarily oriented through MEDCAP II and refugee relief. MEDCAP teams treated

CONFIDENTIAL

10  
CONFIDENTIAL

patients throughout the capital city, surrounding hamlets, and in disputed areas. The location of specific MEDCAP sites were coordinated with province officials. Joint GVN/1st Infantry Division MEDCAP operations were conducted as a result. The cooperation of provincial health workers increased the number treated and enhanced the image of both the division and local officials. MEDCAP operations were supported by attached ARVN Civil Affairs and Psychological Operation Teams. Exploitation of MEDCAP by MI personnel developed useful psychological operations information. The division distributed relief supplies to two refugee camps on three occasions in coordination with district officials. School supplies, sewing and cloth kits, rice and other foods were distributed to 260 needy families (approximately 1400 people). Direct face to face communication with over 18,000 people was accomplished by the attached ARVN/CA and PsyWar Teams. These included speeches to MEDCAP crowds, groups at market squares and street corners, and house to house visits. This highly personal effort by the attached Vietnamese units increased the impact of Division PsyWar themes.

(k) Division loaded 12,000 leaflets in 200 artillery 105mm projectiles for on call requests. This leaflet was a surrender appeal to surrounded or cut off VC units and for rapid exploitation of local actions. The division had an additional 300 rounds of propaganda projectiles available.

(2) As a separate action within the frame work of Operation BIRMINGHAM, the 1st Infantry Division moved to the area of the MICHELIN Plantation to conduct a week's operations. It was decided to conduct "fear" operations using the following general approach:

(a) Convince members of the VC Military Forces that the danger of death is so great that they will rally in spite of their other fears.

(b) Reassure them of good treatment by the US/GVN officials to whom they report, and good treatment by the Government of Vietnam thereafter.

(c) Hold out a tangible hope that their families can be evacuated from VC controlled areas and thereby, removed from danger.

(d) "Fear" propaganda topics.

1. General fear of growing US/GVN might.

2. Fear of the B-52, regarding its surprise destructiveness and the inadequacy of shelter once thought safe.

3. Fear of artillery strikes, especially VT.

4. Fear of bombing and strafing from all types of aircraft and helicopters.

5. Fears induced by the mounting casualty rate.

6. Fear of being abandoned, wounded on the battlefield, especially under the VC policy of giving priority for evacuation and treatment to the lightly wounded.

(3) Results.

(a) Approximately 20,000,000 leaflets were dropped during the 20 day period. Five thousand, five hundred MEDCAP patients were

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

treated and a multitude of Engineer Civic Action projects were accomplished. One thousand, four hundred refugees were provided supplies, including 150 generated by division operations.

(b) "County Fair" and "May Day" PsyWar Offensive Operations appeared to be effective. Initial analysis of the 1st Infantry Division May Day PsyWar Offensive reveal that utilization of the Division Rand and ARVN 1st PsyWar Battalion Cultural Team in conjunction with a weapons display, MEDCAP teams and house to house OA operations forced the VC on the defensive. There were no VC inspired May Day incidents reported in TAY NINH City.

(c) Thirty-eight Chieu Hoi ralliers returned to division/GVN officials during operations. Thirty were attributed by Chieu Hoi officials to 1st Infantry Division operations. Criteria utilized was that a rallier stated the primary reason for defection was 1st Infantry Division PsyOp activities. Generally it was found that the average rallier was 30 years old, literate and a local guerilla. All stated during interrogation that they had read 1st Infantry Division leaflets, however only two leaflets were brought in. Most ralliers stated that no leaflets were brought in because the cadre had declared a death penalty for possession of a leaflet. Two ralliers, VC guerillas, had in their possession a Safe Conduct Pass, numbers 224735AR and 957497Z. Additional Chieu Hoi returnees can be expected to rally at the first opportunity as a result of division operations.

1. Ralliers gave the following reasons for rallying: lack of sufficient food; lack of medical care; no pay; loneliness for family; unkempt premises and leaders who treated them like "dogs".

2. Specific research was conducted as to the effect of B-52 Bombers. Of the 26 ralliers questioned on this subject, 25 stated that they had read about or seen the B-52 raids. Following are their fears in order of priority: fear of being buried alive; fear of the bomb fragments; fear of the noise caused by the explosion of the bomb and blast; fear of the bomber itself (unseen, unheard, ghostlike).

3. More unusual is that 24 ralliers expressed fear of the helicopter ghostship. This can be attributed to the abnormal amount of division fire teams operating in an area where only a few have operated previously.

(d) Leaflets prepared. Attached at Annex C are samples and translations of leaflets prepared by 1st Infantry Division PsyWar elements.

5. MISSION: The 1st Infantry Division was assigned the mission by COMUSMACV of conducting operations deep into War Zone C in conjunction with ARVN III Corps Forces to locate and destroy VC forces supply caches and base camps.

6. CONCEPT OF OPERATION: OPORD 8-66 specified that Operation BIRDLINCHIN would be conducted in five phases.

Phase I (24 Apr - 25 Apr). During this phase the division(-) was to move into the area of operation. 3d Brigade would introduce one infantry battalion and one artillery battery by helicopter to secure an LZ for the remainder of the brigade to deploy. A fixed wing aircraft shuttle, to TAY NINH 3, was to start on the morning of D-Day to bring in the remainder of the 3d Brigade, the 1st Brigade, and two infantry battalions of the 2d Brigade. Battalions would then be helilifted to

CONFIDENTIAL

12

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

LZ's in respective AO's after closure into TAY NINH 3 airfield. A road convoy would deploy to the division base at TAY NINH to position combat support and combat service support elements and establish a division base area for the operation. Phase I was to terminate when all forces are in the AO.

Phase II (24 Apr - 30 Apr). Operations to be conducted in AO BUICK and FORD. During this phase, brigades will conduct search and destroy operations in assigned areas of operation. Because the strength and location of VC in the AO were unknown, operations would initially be of battalion size. Intelligence reports indicated the area of operation contained major base camp complexes defended by core tumor forces. The objective of Phase II therefore was to locate and destroy the base camps and their defenders.

Phase III (29 Apr - 2 May). During this phase, brigades were to conduct operations in AOs NASH and OLDSMOBILE to locate and destroy VC forces. Change 1 to OPORD 3-66 deleted U.S. Forces operating in these ACs and allocated these areas to the 25th ARVN Division Task Force.

Phase IV (3 May - 6 May). Operations in AO DODGE and PLYMOUTH. The objective during this phase was for brigades to conduct search and destroy operations to locate a major VC headquarters and base camp reported located vicinity XT 3181. Because of unknown strength and location of VC forces, brigades would operate initially in battalion size formations.

Phase V (7 May - 8 May). Redeployment to base camps. During this phase, brigades will extract forces to base camps by fixed and rotary wing aircraft. A vehicle convoy would be utilized to redeploy supplies and equipment to assigned areas.

Fire support planning included artillery, tactical air, and armed helicopters to be placed on LZ's and to be provided throughout the operation as harassing and interdiction fires and fires on targets of opportunity.

Planning called for flexibility in execution. Areas of operation were to be adjusted, taking advantage of new intelligence.

Frag Order 44-66: The maneuver units were to occupy an assembly area with 3d Brigade on 1 May followed by 1st Brigade on 2 May. Operations would be conducted to the east and northeast (Annex D), preparing to continue operations in War Zone C by airmobile assault to north of Base 5.

Frag Order 45-66: During this phase of Operation BIRMINGHAM each brigade would conduct a series of specific battalion size operations. Battalions were to conduct saturation patrolling, cordon and search operations and eagle flights in assigned AO's to cover maximum terrain in the limited time available. Fire support would be provided by DS and GS artillery. (Annex E)

Frag Order 46-66 directed that Operation BIRMINGHAM continue during the period 7 - 9 May. Forces would be employed to locate and destroy the headquarters of Central Office South Vietnam (COSVN) reportedly located at XT 217918. The raid type operation would be conducted in four phases.

Phase I (6 - 8 May) A deception plan would be implemented with the alternate COSVN Headquarters located at XT 3202 as the objective. A forward artillery base would be established at Base 4 and intense

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

13

CONFIDENTIAL

7

artillery fire and air strikes would be directed into the deception plan area.

Phase II (3 May) One infantry battalion and one artillery battalion from TF Hollingsworth would be landed at a forward artillery base near the CAMBODIAN Border. After a B-52 strike on COSVN Headquarters a massive artillery and air preparation would be placed on landing zones. The remainder of TF Hollingsworth (three infantry battalions) would land in the objective area and move to the objective while blocking on the north and south (Annex F). One ARVN Airborne battalion was to land vicinity LZ ST. LO and conduct local search and destroy operations.

Phase III (8 - 9 May) After completion of the initial attack on COSVN Headquarters, TF Hollingsworth would conduct a search to locate and destroy additional elements and base camps in the same area.

Phase IV (9 May) Extraction to be made by helicopter.

Fire support was to be provided from two artillery bases and by close air support sorties.

Frag Order 47-66 directed that the division continue Operation BIRMINGHAM by conducting search and destroy operations in the MICHELIN Plantation and LONG NGUYEN/Iron Triangle area (Annex G).

Phase I (9 - 12 May) An MSR was to be established and operations conducted in the MICHELIN Plantation area, searching villages and reported VC way stations.

Phase II (14 - 20 May) Brigades operate east and south of MICHELIN. 2d Brigade would attack south along SAIGON River to objectives vicinity XT 58 1/4 and XT 7422, while 3d Brigade was attacking east through LONG NGUYEN area to LAI KHE.

#### 7. EXECUTION:

D-1 (23 April). The 1st Infantry Division prepositioned the following units and elements in final preparation for Operation BIRMINGHAM:

1st Brigade - Land tail of the brigade convoy (HHC, 1/2 Inf, 1/23 Inf) departed PHUOC VINH and closed DI AN.

2d Brigade - 2d Battalion, 16th Infantry and B Battery, 1st Battalion, 7th Artillery were airlifted with 24 C-123 sorties from BEAR CAT to BNG TING. Company B, 2d Battalion, 16th Infantry was airlifted to CU CHI with 5 CH-47D helicopters to provide personnel for eagle flights to be conducted on D-Day for convoy security. The remainder of the battalion moved from BEAR CAT to BIEN HOA. The land tail of 2/16 Inf, 2/16 Inf, and 1/7 Arty closed to DI AN.

3d Brigade - Land tail of the brigade (HHC, D Co 1st Engr Bn, 2/23 Inf) moved from BEAR CAT to PHU LOI.

Mv Arty - A Troop, 1/4 Cav, Engr Det, and 8/6 Arty depart PHU LOI and closed CU CHI.

D-Day (24 April). PHASE I of Operation BIRMINGHAM commenced at 0630 with a large air assault involving Air Force and Army fixed wing aircraft and Army helicopters. Two infantry battalions and supporting

CONFIDENTIAL

**CONFIDENTIAL**

artillery were lifted simultaneously into LZ's while the remaining four infantry battalions, supporting artillery, command and logistical troops and equipment were moved to the operational area by road convoy, and C-130 and CV-2 aircraft. The first brigade move to the area of operation was accomplished with a combination of a motor convoy and airlift of elements of all three battalions from BIEN HOA and PHUOC VINH Airfields.

The 3d Brigade moved to the operational area by land and air. The 2d Battalion, 18th Infantry had staged at DAU TIENG on 23 April and was airlifted to the forward area. The battalion had a fire fight with VC at XT 042575 and captured 3 of the enemy. The 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry detained 50 VCS at XT 033576, 5 of which were later confirmed as VC. The 2d Battalion, 2d Infantry closed into AO FORD without contact.

Land tail elements closed the base camp at TAY NINH with only minor instances of sniper fire being directed at the convoy.

D+1 (25 April). Operation BIRMINGHAM continued with two brigades conducting extensive search and destroy operations in AO's FORD and BUICK. The 1st Brigade searched generally in the southwestern portion of AO BUICK. The 1st Battalion, 2d Infantry and 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry conducted sweep operations and 2d Battalion, 16th Infantry patrolled the area around LZ RED (XT 0264), maintaining one company on 30 minute alert as a rapid reaction force. There were no significant contacts or discoveries made during the search. The 3d Brigade continued operations with three battalions sweeping to the southwest in AO FORD. The brigade CP was moved to Base 3 and established at XT 037576. The FCL was established between 2d and 3d Brigades along 62 S - W grid line. The 2d Battalion, 2d Infantry swept with two companies and airlifted Company A by UH-1D to Base 3 to provide security for the brigade CP. The 4.2 mortar platoon and B Battery, 2/3 Arty were lifted to the new brigade CP location utilizing UH-1D and CH-47 aircraft. During the sweep by 1/16 Inf, a short fire fight ensued with two VC. The VC fled and left one weapon. The 2/18 Inf had negative contact during the sweep from Base 1 to Base 3. Elements of the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry provided security for artillery and engineer units and supported CIDG forces conducting search and destroy operations vicinity of TAY NINH.

D+2 (26 April). An increase in the number of VC contacts was noted on D+2 and three large supply base complexes were discovered. It had become apparent that major VC supply installations were located along the CAMBODIAN Border and the eastern bank of the RACH CAI BAC River. Four battalions were deployed to the west to search the jungle area and suspicious landing sites along the river. VC contacts ranged from squad to platoon size forces, with brief engagements and VC fleeing after sharp exchanges of fire. 1st Brigade operations were extensive and detailed searches in the western and southwestern portions of AO BUICK. The 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry conducted search and destroy operations in vicinity of area WT 982656 and WT 990695. Several large caches yielded 374 tons of rice, 132 tons of salt, 1250 meters of plastic material, 850 sheets of tin, 1815 gallons of fuel and one boat. The 1st Battalion, 2d Infantry and 2d Battalion, 16th Infantry conducted a relief in place operation. After the relief was effected, the battalion swept north and west along the RACH CAI BAC River.

Three minor contacts were made during the day in which three VC were killed and a AK assault rifle was captured. One exchange of fire was with three VC across the river (in CAMBODIA) at WT 9766.

The 3d Brigade Commander deployed the 2/18 Inf on a sweep north and west and 1/16 Inf sweeping west. The 2d Battalion, 2d Infantry remained

**CONFIDENTIAL**

CONFIDENTIAL

at the brigade CP in reserve. During the sweep by 1/16 Inf, base camps and way stations were discovered. Company C engaged an unknown number of VC in a base camp at XT 003575. Artillery and air were immediately employed to assist in cutting off the VC escape routes to the south and east. When contact was broken at 1830, U.S. Forces had killed 5 VC (BG) and captured four small arms. Four contacts were made by elements of 2/18 Inf, during their sweep west and north. Company C made contact with 6 - 8 VC in a base camp at WT 993619. The company pursued the VC but lost contact. At 1627, A Company engaged approximately 25 VC at WT 985631 killing 2 (BG).

The 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry continued the mission of providing security and supporting CIDG forces. All operations were without incident.

D+3 (27 April). A thorough search of the banks of the RACH CAI BAC River was conducted where large supply installations had been uncovered. VC contacts were limited to brief encounters with snipers and squad or small size elements. The 1st Brigade conducted extensive and detailed search and destroy operations in the west and southwestern portions of AO BUICK, with attention directed to the river bank where large stores of material and food stuffs had been discovered and destroyed. A link-up was made with 3d Brigade elements at XT 0264. The 1st Battalion, 2d Infantry secured an LZ for the introduction of 1/16 Inf, 2/33 Arty(-) and 3d Bde CP, then quickly reorganized and conducted an airmobile assault into vicinity WT 975675. The 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry, uncovered large amounts of VC supplies during search and destroy operations along the river. Base camps and supply caches yielded the following: 6 huts, a mess hall and classroom, 44 CHICOM grenades, 150.5 tons of rice, 500 pounds of cloth in bolts, 200 pounds of grain, and assorted documents. Elements of the 2d Battalion, 16th Infantry discovered and destroyed 63 tons of rice, 50 pounds of salt, 800 black uniforms, 16 boats, and 6,000 khaki uniforms. The battalion had two contacts during the day. Three VC were killed and their small arms captured.

The 3d Brigade CP moved to vicinity of XT 023645 by CH-47. One helicopter was hit by sniper fire from XT 0357. The 2d Battalion, 2d Infantry evacuated 1,600 pounds of rice from vicinity of XT 015565. The battalion moved by UH-1D to vicinity XT 023643 and established overnight positions. The 2d Battalion, 18th Infantry searched south along the river. A battalion base camp was discovered at WT 991619 containing the following: five classrooms (100 - 150 persons each), 50 huts, and a supply point contained uniforms, a kitchen, 20 tons of rice and other miscellaneous supplies and documents. Several complexes were found along the river that indicated a series of way stations. The following items were found and destroyed: 200 huts, 50 tons of rice, 1 (25-50 HP) diesel engine, 1 gasoline generator, and 1 - 2 HP engine. Company 3 destroyed an ammunition manufacturing complex at WT 992687.

1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry continued the mission of security and patrolling. In two separate mine incidents, APC's suffered minor damage. Troop B engaged an estimated 20 VC in vicinity XT 142496 at 2012 hours with unknown results.

D+4 (28 April). Operation BIRMINGHAM continued with units conducting search and destroy operations along the RACH CAI BAC River and along the southern portion of AO BUICK to the RACH BEV DA River. Numerous VC base camps, estimated to be company or battalion size, with various supply caches were discovered. A significant number of mines and booby traps were encountered along roads and trails, particularly leading to base camp areas. None of the installations were heavily

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

defended, with only VC units of squad or smaller size continuing to be encountered. The enemy continued his tactics of sporadic fire and fleeing, abandoning their camps or positions as division forces advanced.

The 1st Brigade continued extensive search and destroy operations in AO BUICK with emphasis on the saturation of the bank of the RACH CAI BAC River between WT 965715 and WT 963680. The 1st Battalion, 2d Infantry discovered a rice cache of 32 tons in vicinity of WT 969700. While the rice was being destroyed, an unknown number of VC were engaged by A Company, one VC was killed. Company B executed a rapid sweep to the east to maintain A Company's contact. Air and artillery were used to block the enemy's escape, but the contact was broken. The 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry conducted operations without contact, but located several supply caches. Fourteen buildings were discovered at WT 993674, containing miscellaneous training aids and supplies. A rice cache of five tons and some medical supplies were found at WT 995679. Company C located a base camp with 30 buildings, one of which was a dining hall containing eight stoves. Three huts and ten tons of rice were discovered by the same company at WT 984677. The 2d Battalion, 16th Infantry conducted operations along the river in conjunction with 1/2 Inf. Emphasis was placed on the thorough destruction of supplies found on 27 April.

There was no major contact by the two battalions sweeping in 3d Brigade Zone. The 2d Battalion, 18th Infantry found a large base camp at XT 000639 containing the following: several CHICOM Claymore - type mines, numerous booby-trapped CHICOM grenades, several oxen, picks and shovels, male and female sleeping quarters, an 8-bed hospital, a cooking area for 50 people, 1,200 pounds of rice, and 10 huts. The 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry remained in reserve and secured the artillery base and brigade CP until relieved by 2/13 Inf at 1145 hours. The battalion then swept northeast without contact. The 2d Battalion, 2d Infantry swept east to the RACH BEN DA River and then north and south along the west bank between 63 and 66 E - W grid lines. Negative contact was made.

Two mine incidents damaged an APC and a tank of the 1/4 Cav.

D+5 (29 April). As Operation BIRMINGHAM continued, the 1st Infantry Division penetrated deeper into War Zone C with a two-brigade assault to position forces astride the main VC east-west supply route into War Zone C from CAMBODIA. 3d Brigade elements moved into AO LINCOLN, while the 1st Brigade commenced operations in AO MERCURY. 1st Brigade elements were airlifted into the new base area. 1st Battalion, 2d Infantry continued search and destroy operation along the RACH CAI BAC River as it swept north into AO MERCURY. Twenty-two tons of rice were destroyed in vicinity WT 977725. The LZ (XT 032718) was assaulted by 1/28 Inf and then secured for the remaining brigade elements to land. An estimated fifteen VC were engaged at XT 032710, situated in a fortified position with overhead cover. As the position was assaulted, the VC fled. The 2d Battalion, 16th Infantry swept north along the river in conjunction with 1/2 Inf. A major hospital complex was discovered in vicinity WT 977736. The complex measured 100 X 300 meters and contained elaborate laboratory facilities, 1000 pounds of medical supplies and 30 tons of rice, hospital wards, surgical facilities, and administrative and storage areas. The area also contained 16 buildings. During the day, the battalion located and destroyed a total of 108 tons of rice, however, no significant contact was made.

The movement of the 3d Brigade CP and 2/3 Arty(-) was made by CH-47 aircraft into LZ CHORD (XT 025785). The 2d Battalion, 2d Infantry was airlifted to LZ CHORD by UH-1D, preceding the brigade element and secured the brigade CP and artillery base. The 1st Battalion, 16th

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

Infantry was also lifted by UH-1D into LZ CHORD. Search and destroy operations were conducted to the northeast, but no contact was made with the VC. LZ RED (XT 020640) was secured by 2/18 Inf for extraction of 1st and 3d Brigades. The battalion then moved by UH-1D to AO MERCURY and was placed under operational control of the 1st Brigade.

D+6 (30 April). The 1st Infantry Division continued its search of the CAI BAC River along the CAMBODIAN Border. One company of 2d Bn, 16th Inf remained to destroy the medical center discovered 29 April, while the battalion (-) and 1st Battalion, 2d Infantry continued north along the river. 0845 hours, both battalions began to receive heavy SA fire from the tree line north of the village of LO GO (JT 9775), and simultaneously received AW fire from the west (CAMBODIAN) bank of the river. Fire was returned with SA, AW, and artillery, and effectively suppressed the firing from CAMBODIA. Company A, 2d Battalion, 16th Infantry succeeded in enveloping the right (eastern) flank of the VC force on the north, killing 8 VC and destroying a company size base camp. The 1st Bn, 2d Inf closed with the VC forces (estimated at a battalion on the east bank) and killed 42 VC (BC) plus another 75 (probable). 2d Battalion, 16th Infantry killed 4 more VC during mop-up operations. The total VC losses were 54 KIA (BC) and 100 KIA (probable - determined by aerial observation on the west bank of the river). Contact was broken at 1405 hours.

3d Brigade conducted patrolling out from the brigade CP with two infantry battalions. 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry was placed on rapid reaction status at 0950 hours and was pulled back to the brigade CP area. 2d Battalion, 2d Infantry conducted S&D operations, north, destroying a bunker complex that encircled the brigade CP. Company A encountered a trench and bunker at XT 022797 which was defended by a small VC force.

1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry conducted a night sweep from its CP to XT 1569. Some SA fire was received but no major contact resulted.

D+7 (1 May). Only light VC contact was made as the division continued mop-up operations following the LO GO Battle. 1st Brigade conducted battalion size S&D operations in the southern portion of AO MERCURY netting 51 tons of rice and 3 VCC. 1st Battalion, 2d Infantry was detached from 1st Brigade and lifted from AO MERCURY to LZ WILLOW RUN (XT 3147) where it was attached to 3d Brigade. The other 3d Brigade elements were extracted from AO LINCOLN to the plantation area vicinity LZ WILLOW RUN closing 1714 hours without significant incidents.

1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry secured LZ WILLOW RUN with Troop B and swept the plantation area for the arrival of 3d Brigade. Division Artillery elements supported the extraction of 3d Brigade from Base 2 and continued its extensive HAL program.

D+8 (2 May). 1st Brigade was airlifted from AO MERCURY to the south side of the plantation area vicinity XT 3250. The LZ was secured by elements of 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry. The first lift departed the PZ 0645 hours and the last brigade elements closed 1429 hours. No contacts were made in the new AO.

3d Brigade conducted care and maintenance and stood down from active operations. Plans were begun for operations in AO AUSTIN between TAY NIMH and DAU TIENG. 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry detained 3 VCS while conducting security patrols vicinity XT 336448.

CONFIDENTIAL

18

CONFIDENTIAL

1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry secured the LZ vicinity XT 3149 for 1st Brigade. Some SA and AW fire was received 0635 hours but no damage resulted. Troop B plus tanks secured the road from XT 253500 to XT 371424 for 1st Engineer Battalion work parties. Two VC were killed during the day while this mission was being performed.

Division Artillery elements escorted by 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry displaced from Base 2 after the last infantry elements had departed and moved to a new base vicinity XT 3050. All elements closed 2035 hours without incident.

D+9 (3 May). Both brigades conducted care and maintenance in the plantation area east of TAY NINH. Plans were developed for operations in AO's AUSTIN and FIAT southeast of TAY NINH City. 3d Brigade relieved 1/16 Inf by 2/28 Inf in the operational area using a CV-2 shuttle from SUOI DA (XT 3358) to LAI KHE. At 2000 hours 1/2 Inf departed the perimeter and began moving toward the village at XT 4044 to conduct a cordon and search at first light.

D+10 (4 May). 1st Division elements continued active operations in Operation BIRMINGHAM with 1/2 Inf searching a village at XT 4044. Four VC were killed and four SA captured when the VC tried to flee the village in the early morning. 2d Battalion, 2d Infantry moved to search Objective 32 (XT 3539) at 0655 hours. During the day four VCS were detained and several tons of rice and other supplies destroyed.

1st Brigade elements remained in their base camp perimeters until 1830 hours when 2/16 Inf moved to XT 343480 to position itself for the next day's operations.

1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry secured engineer work parties along the Route 22 bypass and attached Troop A to 1st Brigade. Troop C escorted 3d Battalion, 319th Artillery from XT 170740 to TAY NINH after extraction of 25th ARVN Division elements from AO's NASH and OLDSMOBILE.

1st Aviation Battalion participated in the emergency extraction of a CIDG company which was trapped by an estimated two VC companies vicinity XT 570760. Seven UH-1D's and two fire teams were dispatched and effected the pick-up by 1630 hours.

D+11 (5 May). 1st Brigade conducted three separate battalion operations, with 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry searching the area around the brigade base, 2d Battalion, 16th Infantry attacking a suspect VC assembly area, and 2d Battalion, 18th Infantry conducting an airmobile assault into an LZ at XT 432451. Only light contact was made on the operations. 2d Battalion, 16th Infantry's attack was preceded by a CS preparation of the woods vicinity XT 375478 followed by TAC air and artillery fires. No contact was made but some munitions and rice were discovered.

3d Brigade continued operations in AO FIAT with no significant contact. 2d Battalion, 28th Infantry conducted an airmobile assault south of the ORIENTAL River into the TIEN THUAN Forest and attacked to the south toward RF/PF blocking forces. Fifteen tons of rice were destroyed but no major VC contact was made.

D+12 (6 May). Light VC contact continued in AO's AUSTIN and FIAT. 1st Brigade headquarters turned OPCON of 2/16 Inf, 2/13 Inf, 1/28 Inf, and 1/5 Arty over to 2d Brigade at 1700 hours and moved its equipment and personnel to TAY NINH Airfield. 2d Battalion, 18th Infantry continued interdiction of VC communication and liaison routes in the BEN CUI Plantation west of DAU TIENG, killing two VC (BO) and eight more.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

(estimated) during the day. 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry was lifted by C-123 from BEAR CAT to TAY NINH and came under division control upon closure at 0915 hours.

3d Brigade continued eagle flights into the TIEN THUAN Woods with 2/28 Inf and conducted village search operations vicinity XT 323405 with 2/2 Inf. One VC was killed and several VC captured during the day's operations.

1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry escorted 8/6 Arty elements from their old area to positions vicinity XT 338582, and also relocated the squadron CP to that area. All elements closed 1830 hours without incident.

D+13 (7 May). All elements except 1/2 Inf and div arty remained in their perimeter areas at the plantation east of TAY NINH in preparation for a massive heliborne assault on a suspected VC headquarters at XT 2191. 1st Battalion, 2d Infantry, 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry(-) and artillery units displaced by air and road to Base 4 (XT 2867), with Battery C, 8th Battalion, 6th Artillery, Battery A, 2d Battalion, 32d Artillery remaining at SUOI DA. While securing the LZ for 1/2 Inf, Troop B, 1/4 Cav engaged a small number of VC killing two and capturing two weapons.

D+14 (8 May). The division continued Operation BIRMINGHAM with the commencement of the attack by TF HOLLINGSWORTH (Hq 3d Bde, 2/2 Inf, 2/18 Inf, 1/28 Inf, 2/28 Inf, and 2/33 Arty) to the northernmost portion of Zone C. The initial lift of 2/2 Inf was delayed from 0630 to 0800 hours because of extremely poor weather. After the 2/2 Inf and almost two batteries of the 33d Artillery had landed at LZ ST. LO (XT 275972) the weather again forced a delay and prevented further introduction of the task force elements. Accordingly the decision was made to extract the committed elements from LZ ST. LO and cancel the remainder of the landings in LZ VERDUN (XT 236922). The extraction started 1300 and was completed 1605 hours with all elements returning to their previous positions.

2d Brigade elements at 1330 hours commenced movement to Base 4, with 2/18 Inf and 2/16 Inf making landing at or near the base to counter a suspected VC buildup to the northeast. The brigade CP and 1/5 Arty displaced to SUOI DA and joined the div arty CP. 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry and 1/2 Inf, already at Base 4, came under 2d Brigade control at 1430 hours.

1st Battalion, 18th Infantry, division reserve at TAY NINH, engaged 20 VC at 1125 hours vicinity XT 172474. The contact lasted until 1205 hours. Subsequently a BAR and some munitions were found and destroyed in a base camp at the same location.

D+15 (9 May). With the abandonment of the raid on the VC installations in the far north of TAY NINH Province, the division shifted Operation BIRMINGHAM to the east into the DAU TIENG - MICHELIN Plantation areas. 2d Brigade remained in the SUOI DA area conducted S&D operations with light contact. 3d Brigade displaced its CP and artillery to the MICHELIN Plantation area vicinity XT 582500 after the area had been secured by 2/28 Inf. 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry supported by one battery airlifted to DAU TIENG, conducted an airmobile assault into the BEN CUI Rubber Plantation west of DAU TIENG. 2d Battalion, 2d Infantry was subsequently lifted into the brigade CP area and took up security positions.

CONFIDENTIAL

20

CONFIDENTIAL

1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry remained attached to 2d Brigade except for Troop A which joined 1/28 Inf in the BEN CUI Plantation.

D+16 (10 May). 2d Brigade displaced from the SUOI DA area to DAU TIENG to attack southeast along the SAIGON River with two infantry battalions. 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry was released from division control at 1600 hours and moved by air to DAU TIENG where it became 2d Brigade reserve. 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry with Troop A, 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry attached, was released from OPCON 3d Brigade 1200 hours and became division troops with the mission of securing convoys and engineer elements in the BEN CUI area. Division artillery elements displaced from SUOI DA to vicinity XT 396434 closing 1710 hours.

2d Brigade elements conducted village searches in the MICHELIN Plantation without significant contact. A total of nine VCC were taken by 1/28 Inf in the village at XT 464450. 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry(..) after escorting div arty to its new location, was attached to 2d Brigade and established security positions around the brigade CP and artillery.

D+17 (11 May). Operation BIRMINGHAM continued with 2d Brigade attacking southeast along the east banks of the SAIGON River from DAU TIENG and 3d Brigade continued operations in the MICHELIN Plantation. 2d Brigade detained 14 VCS and destroyed four tons of rice but made no contact with armed VC forces. 3d Brigade searched several villages in the plantation area using all three infantry battalions (1/2, 2/2, 2/28) and the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry. The squadron returned to division control at 1800 hours.

1st Battalion, 28th Infantry remained under division control and conducted extensive patrolling in the BEN CUI area while securing the passage of div arty and HIC 1st Infantry Division elements. Division artillery moved 8/6 Arty(-) to join 3d Brigade, while HIB and the two attached 8" batteries displaced to the west banks of the SAIGON River outside DAU TIENG. The division TAC CP moved by road from TAY NINH to DAU TIENG closing 1315 hours.

D+18 (12 May). 2d Brigade continued to search south along the SAIGON River with 2/16 Inf sealing and searching a village at XT 5338, and 2/16 Inf conducting small unit patrols from company bases. 2d Battalion, 16th Infantry discovered 75 tons of rice and VC uniforms in the village, but IPW personnel were not able to identify anyone in the village as VC. 2d Battalion, 18th Infantry discovered an arms cache containing 67 weapons and explosives.

3d Brigade moved from the MICHELIN area to commence S&D operations east toward Route 13. 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry was placed under OPCON 2d Brigade 0700 hours and conducted an airmobile assault into an LZ at XT 662583. Company A commenced to search north along a streamline while Companies B and C searched to the west. 1510 hours Company B made contact with five VC at XT 619574 killing one and capturing one. 1st Battalion, 2d Infantry, 2d Battalion, 2d Infantry, and 2d Battalion, 23rd Infantry began sweeping east from the MICHELIN with 1st Battalion, 2d Infantry and 2d Battalion, 28th Infantry making airmobile assaults into XT 619474 and XT 632454 respectively. While on the LZ, 2/23 Inf, through an error in smoke signals, was hit by a CBU strike intended for a VC force south of the LZ. The three battalions searched to the east during the afternoon with negative contact.

D+19 (13 May). Both brigades continued south and east through the LONG NAM area and the SAIGON River bank. 2d Brigade received OPCON

CONFIDENTIAL

21

## CONFIDENTIAL

1/23 Inf at 0915 hours when it closed by helilift into the new brigade CP area at XT 534381. 1st Battalion, 13th Infantry relieved 2d Battalion, 18th Infantry in place at XT 552403, whereupon 2d Battalion, 13th Infantry was lifted back to DAU TIENG for return to BEAR CAT by CV-2. After the landing of 1/18 Inf, 2/16 Inf began searching south encountering sporadic SA fire. 2d Brigade CP and 1/5 Arty(-) moved by CH-47 to the LZ secured by 1/28 Inf closing 1740 hours.

3d Brigade continued to push east with three battalions encountering numerous mines and booby traps. At 1231 hours 2/23 Inf found a regimental size base camp at XT 659464 but no supplies were discovered. During the night Company A observed an estimated VC company at XT 660462. Artillery was called with unknown results.

1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry provided convoy escort for div arty convoys to TAY NINH and return. Troop B and the aero rifle platoon of Troop D conducted a search of the village at XT 520516 detaining four VC.

D+20 (14 May). Operation BIRMINGHAM continued with 2d Brigade locating several supply caches near the CP and 3d Brigade thoroughly exploring the regimental base camp located 13 May. After sealing and searching villages at XT 585337 and XT 605341, 2/16 Inf and 1/18 Inf proceeded to search the adjacent river banks, while 1/23 Inf searched out from the CP. Sixty-one tons of rice, 15 tons of salt, and other supplies were destroyed.

2d Battalion, 28th Infantry investigated the regimental camp previously discovered and found it to be a series of camps over 1500 meters long containing medical installations, munitions factories, and clothing caches. The entire complex had been recently abandoned. During the day the 3d Brigade CP and 2/33 Arty(-) displaced by CH-47 to vicinity BAU BANG (XT 787466) closing 1800 hours.

An air strike on a suspected VC storage area at XT 446532 uncovered a storage area estimated to contain 200 tons of rice. Approximately 20 tons were destroyed by the day's strikes and the area was marked for further destruction by air and artillery.

1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry conducted convoy and route security for div arty and 1st Engineer Battalion elements. Troop C conducted a search vicinity XT 581540 where a VC headquarters was reported by special intelligence sources. A small bunker complex was destroyed but no signs of any VC were found.

D+21 (15 May). 2d Brigade terminated participation in Operation BIRMINGHAM with the helicopter shuttle of 2/16 Inf and 1/13 Inf to PHU LCI for road movement back to BEAR CAT. 1st Battalion, 5th Artillery(-) was moved by CH-47 to PHU LOI. After the extraction of all other elements, 1/23 Inf moved by UH-1 and CH-47 to its home base at PHUOC VINH, clearing the operational area at 1705 hours.

3d Brigade continued sweeping to the east until PL WINSTON (XT 6835 - XT 7754) was reached without significant contact. 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry escorted artillery elements from the former 3d Brigade CP and from DAU TIENG to an intermediate position vicinity XT 371424. The squadron (less Troop A) then continued to TAY NINH to prepare for the move of the logistical base back to DI AN.

D+22 (16 May). Operation BIRMINGHAM terminated active operations 16 May with the road movement of the logistical, artillery, and command elements from TAY NINH and DAU TIENG to DI AN, PHU LOI, BEAR CAT, and

CONFIDENTIAL

22

CONFIDENTIAL

LAI KHE. 1st Battalion, 2d Infantry was detached from 3d Brigade and returned to PHUOC VINH by CV-2 from LAI KHE. The vehicle elements of the division departed TAY NINH 0700 hours, and the last vehicle closed at 1955 hours into its home station or overnight base.

3d Brigade closed onto Highway 13 and took up positions along the route to permit passage of an ARVN resupply convoy north to BAU LONG. Several mines and booby traps were encountered during the day. 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry(-) moved from LAI KHE to assume 2/23 Inf portion of the route, and 2/23 Inf closed back into LAI KHE at 1604 terminating 3d Brigade's participation in Operation BIRMINGHAM.

D+23 (17 May). Redeployment from Operation BIRMINGHAM was completed as the tanks of 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry left TAN SON NHUT at 0300 hours to return through SAIGON to their base at PHU LOI. The vehicles closed 1205 hours without incident.

Two trains of the 1st Brigade moved by convoy from the holding area at DI AN to PHUOC VINH departing DI AN at 1300 hours and closing into PHUOC VINH 1800 hours, officially terminating the operation.

8. SUPPORTING FORCES: a. Artillery:

(1) Size of Force

Hq 1st Inf Div Arty	Col Merlin W Camp
1st Bn, 5th Arty(-) w/B Btry	Lt Col David C Rogers
2d Bn, 13th Arty Atch	Lt Col Gerald E Robinson
DS, 1st Bde (24 Apr - 7 May)	
DS, 2d Bde (7 May - 16 May)	
2d Bn, 33d Arty(-) w/B Btry	Lt Col Frank R Tins
1st Bn, 7th Arty Atch	
DS, 3d Bde	
8th Bn, 6th Arty(-) GS	Lt Col John R McGiffert
3d Bn, 319th Arty(-)	Lt Col William Nordin
DS, 25th ARVN Div (27 Apr - 11 May)	
A Btry, 2d Bn, 32d Arty (175mm)	Capt Maurice L Savoy
GS (6 May - 16 May)	
A Btry, 6th Bn, 27th Arty (8")	Capt James Dudley
Atch 8/6 Arty (6 May - 16 May)	
C Btry, 2d Bn, 32d Arty (8")	Capt James H Chapman
Atch 8/6 (6 May - 16 May)	

(2) How and When Employed: Command and Control Group of Division Artillery, and firing elements from the 8th Battalion, 6th Artillery departed PHU LOI on 23 April under escort of 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry enroute to CU CHI. The purpose of these elements was to support a 1st Brigade airborne operation on D-Day. These elements moved to vicinity XI 12365/6 cu D-Day and established the div arty forward base. Battery D, 1st Battalion, 7th Artillery was lifted by C-123 from BEAR CAT to a staging area at DAU TIENG. Other participating artillery units were introduced into their respective AOs on 24 April by UH-1D, CH-47, C-130, and CV-2 aircraft as follows:

UNIT	FROM	TO
*B/2/13 Arty (Atch 1/5 Arty)	PHU LOI	XI 020644 (AO BICK)
*B/1/5 Arty	PHUOC VINH	XI 025645 (AO BICK)
*A/1/5 Arty	PHUOC VINH	XI 027642 (AO BICK)
B/1/7 Arty (Atch 2/33 Arty)	DAU TIENG	XI 033577 (AO WORD)
B/2/33 Arty	LAI KHE	XI 110600 (AO WORD)

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

23

UNIT

FROM

TO

\*\*A/2/33 Arty

LAI KHE

Log Base

\* Phased at intermediate AOs at TAY NINH 3 Airfield.

\*\* Originally scheduled for AO FORD but remained at Log Base and supported C Troop 1/4 Cav and CIDG companies.

Land tails of participating units moved in convoys from PHU LOI and DI AN, where they had assembled on 23 April, to div arty forward base and Log base vicinity of TAY NINH.

Operation BIRMINGHAM was adequately and continuously supported by artillery fire. On D-Day, 8th Bn, 6th Arty fired a preparation and suppressive fire on the LZ at XT 0264 in support of the airmobile assault by 1st Brigade elements. The Commanding Officer and S-3, 3d Bn, 319th Arty visited div arty on 25 April to discuss the mission and concept of deployment of the battalion when it would be introduced into the operation in the near future. Heavy H&I fires were planned and executed by both DS and GS artillery along the RACH CAI BAC River (XT 9671 - 9761) to cut off enemy withdrawal routes. H&I fires were augmented by immediate artillery response to targets of opportunity generated by SIAR and "Lightning Bug" intelligence. Local intelligence was exploited to intensify daylight H&I missions. On 26 April, 1st Bn, 5th Arty, fired a preparation to support an assault by 2d Bn, 16th Inf north and west along the RACH CAI BAC River. Afterwards the battalion fired 200 rounds prior to darkness and 300 rounds throughout the night on VC escape routes along the river.

Artillery was repositioned with the movement of the 1st and 3d Brigades into AOs MERCURY and LINCOLN. Preparations and suppressive fires were conducted by 8th Bn, 6th Arty, 1st Bn, 5th Arty, and 2d Bn, 33d Arty. After the initial assault, the 1st Bn, 5th Arty was helilifted to vicinity 1st Brigade CP (XT 031718). The 2d Bn, 33d Arty moved by CH-47 with the 3d Brigade CP to vicinity XT 025735.

Significant contact was made with an estimated VC Bn at the village of LO 90 on 30 April. The 1st Bn, 5th Arty, reinforced by 2d Bn, 33d Arty saturated the area on both sides of the CAMBODIAN Border.

By 3 May, direct support artillery units had been helilifted to the brigade assembly areas southeast of TAY NINH City. All 1st Division elements were oriented in AOs FIAT and AUSTIN to continue battalion size operations to the east. Concurrently planning was conducted for the raid to be conducted on the COSVN Headquarters in the north. Div arty was to play a predominate role in the execution, including the introduction of 82mm howitzers and 175mm guns. Support of operations in AOs FIAT and AUSTIN continued with preparations of LZ's, H&I fires, and missions fired on targets of opportunity.

Div arty elements received an alert on 6 May to move to Arty Base 4 in support of operations to be conducted north and northeast of TAY NINH City. Btry C, 8th Bn, 6th Arty displaced to vicinity of SONG DA to support the movement of Div Arty to Base 4 on the next day. Btry A, 2d Bn, 32d Arty occupied a position near SONG DA (XT 3460) and came under OPCON div arty. Btry C, 2d Bn, 32d Arty and A Btry, 6th Bn, 27th Arty were attached to 3d Bn, 6th Arty and moved into position vicinity div arty base (XT 2351). On 7 May, the Div Arty Task Force, minus C Btry, 8th Bn, 6th Arty, and A Btry, 2d Bn, 32d Arty, moved enroute to Base 4. Due to heavy rains, only a part of the task force reached Base 4. The elements remained in position at Base 4 to support TF HOLLINGDALE, but

CONFIDENTIAL

24

CONFIDENTIAL

because of deteriorating weather conditions, the heliborne assault was aborted. In lieu of this operation, TF HILLTOP was supported while conducting search and destroy operations around Base 4. Planning and preparation began in support of the operations to continue east in the BEN GUI - MICHELIN Rubber Plantation area and south to the IRON TRIANGLE. Artillery units too heavy for lift by helicopters were extracted from Base 4 following a major engineer effort on the rain damaged roads.

On 11 May, division artillery repositioned to continue support of Operation BIRMINGHAM east and south. The 3d Bn, 319th Arty terminated their participation and were extracted from the operation. By attaching the 155mm batteries to 1st Bn, 5th Arty, and 2d Bn, 33d Arty, a more favorable balance of artillery power was achieved.

The 2d Bn, 33d Arty was airlifted to BAU BANG on 14 May, while planning continued for repositioning of artillery units to support convoys returning to home station on 16 May. With termination of 2d Brigade participation on 15 May, 1st Bn, 5th Arty was helilifted to PHUOC VINH. While the 2d Bn, 33d Arty remained in position vicinity of BAU BANG to support 3d Brigade, div arty elements moved by convoy to home stations. After supporting an ARVN resupply convoy on 17 May, 2d Bn, 33d Arty, returned to LAI KHE.

Artillery support was continuous throughout the operation. Artillery units fired preparations, suppression, harassing and interdiction, counter-mortar and anti-personnel, equipment, and installation missions. In addition, missions were fired in support of resupply convoys and engineer work parties. A recapitulation of missions fired is at Annex H.

Commanding Officer, 8th Bn, 6th Arty was responsible for organization of the div arty base and coordination of security with 1st Sqdn, 4th Cav.

Artillery liaison officers and forward observers were provided as follows:

1/5 Arty	1st Bde (subsequently to 2d Bde)
2/33 Arty	3d Bde
23d Arty Gp	1/4 Cav (3 FOs and one LNO)

Boundaries between AOs were established on fire coordination lines. Initial AOs were free fire areas, but operations in southern AOs required clearance from ARVN in most cases. Meteorological Data was broadcast daily at 0200, 0600, 1400, and 2000 hours from div arty base, by phone on request. Preparations on LZs were planned and executed by direct support battalions and reinforced on-call by general support artillery. Units conducted registrations or fired check rounds in vicinity of LZs prior to firing preparations.

b. Engineer:

(1) Size of Force:

Hq 1st Engr Bn(-) A Company, 1st Engr (-)	Lt Col Howard L Sargent Capt Charles Kesterson (KIA) Capt D.C. Newberry - 4 May 66 Capt Joe M Cannon
D Company, 1st Engr Bn(-) Bridge element, E Co Heavy equipment element, Hq Co Water supply element, Hq Platoon, G Company	

CONFIDENTIAL

25

CONFIDENTIAL

(2) How and When Employed: The first major task given to the engineer battalion was obstacle clearing for the convoys moving to TAY NINH. A road clearing engineer task force moved to CU CHI on 23 April. On 24 April, six mine detector teams with security were airlifted to six critical bridges on Routes 1 and 22. Simultaneously, a spearhead element of cavalry and engineers, equipped to replace blown bridges moved ahead of the main elements. Engineer operations within the AO were devoted initially to improvement of roads and installations of water points at the log base near TAY NINH. The road between TAY NINH and SUOI DA was repaired which included the construction of a timber bridge at XT 273513. The finished bridge was a Class 30 with a bypass to the east for heavier equipment such as tanks. Engineer tasks throughout the operation were involved with filling ruts, and removing berms, the VC had emplaced and widening narrow stretches to accommodate heavy vehicles. Many culverts were installed.

On 6 May the engineer battalion was given the mission to construct and repair the road from XT 335577 to XT 232678 for the passage of forty supporting maneuvering infantry units in the north. Work on the road began with the filling of ruts caused by the early morning rain and the passage of tanks and APC's. Laterite of a good quality was not available so dry fill taken from two pits opened by the engineers was used. Culverts had to be installed along many roads to keep the standing water from deteriorating the sides of the road. Much bulldozer and dump truck hauling was necessary for the extraction of the artillery from Base 4.

The next major task of the engineer included the building of bridges, filling cuts, and reinforcing existing bridges for the passage of artillery and supply vehicles to the MICHELIN Plantation area. During the 24 days of the operation four bridges were repaired or replaced, approximately 100 kilometers of road were repaired, numerous culverts and bypasses were installed, and water was supplied utilizing the following equipment:

- 3 graders
- 3 scrap loaders
- 2 bulldozers
- 2 tank dozers
- 3 eradiators
- 1 steel wheel roller
- 1 wobbly wheel roller
- 13 dump trucks
- 1 wrecker
- 6  $\frac{1}{2}$  ton trucks
- 5  $\frac{3}{4}$  ton trucks
- 6  $2\frac{1}{2}$  ton trucks
- 2 PUL trucks
- 11 bridge trucks

c. Signal:

(1) Size of Force:

Hq 121st Sig Bn  
A Co  
B Co  
C Co  
1st Fnd Sig Plat  
3d Fnd Sig Plat

Lt Col R.R. Curington  
Capt J.J. Barros  
Capt R.C. Baugh  
1st Lt E.J. Lucyk

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

(2) How and When Employed: The battalion provided VHF, HF, and FM radio, and secure on-line teletype service to Division Advance TOC, 1st, 2d, and 3d Brigade Forward CPs, and Division Artillery Forward. Company C was tasked with the mission of providing the communication forward while communications were terminated at DI AN by A Company and at PHU LOI by B Company. A reinforced platoon from C Company deployed and provided the following:

- (a) Termination five VHF systems (60 channels) providing telephone hot line and common user circuits to higher, lower, and rear echelons, requiring four AN/FRT-69's.
- (b) Communications center service to all elements at TAY NINH, utilizing an AN/FSC-29 with four secure, half duplex, teletype positions.
- (c) Local and trunk switching service for all elements in TAY NINH, requiring one AN/FTC-7 switchboard and 90 telephones.
- (d) Secure radio teletype communication forward and rear for logistical traffic and back up communication center teletype. One AN/FRC-26 and one AN/FRC-46 were utilized.

(e) FM relay for two Brigade Command Nets and CG Command Net. Three AN/FRC-49's were installed in a 3/4 ton shelter and airlifted to NUI BA DEN. On 21 April the triple FM retransmission set was airlifted to NUI BA DEN. By 1630 hours on 24 April, VHF contact was established with Div Arty Forward, DI AN, and PHU LOI.

The 3d Forward Signal Platoon moved with the 3d Brigade Trains to TAY NINH. However, while displacing the AN/FRC-69, it was dropped by a CH-47 and totally demolished. Circuits were provided to 3d Brigade over the 1st Brigade system. When the 3d Brigade moved on 23 April, FM communications was used for the remainder of the operation.

The 1st Forward Signal Platoon moved to the AO with 1st Brigade Trains on 24 April. While displacing on 27 April, the AN/FRC-69 was dropped during the airlift and FM radios were used for communications for the remainder of the operation.

On 11 May a system to Danger TAC at DAU TIENG was activated and supported by the Forward CP Platoon at TAY NINH. This system was operational through 15 May.

Requirements for communication support for the TOC/Log Base at TAY NINH were much greater than anticipated. Representative figures reflect this as follows:

- (a) Installed wire - WD-1, 40 miles  
Spiral-4, 10 miles
- (b) Installed telephones - 92

Circuits installed:

- (a) Hot line - 23
- (b) Common user - 19
- (c) Teletype - 6

No enemy electronic warfare was noted during Operation KIRKWOOD.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

27

d. U.S. Air Force Close Air Support:

(1) Size of Force. During Operation BIRMINGHAM, a total of 1,046 TAC close air support air sorties were flown in support of 1st Infantry Division elements as follows:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOTAL SORTIES</u>	<u>LZ PRE-STRIKE</u>	<u>AIR COVER</u>	<u>INTERDICTION</u>	<u>SKY SPOT</u>	<u>IMMEDIATE</u>
24 Apr	71	25	17	27		2 (CAS)
25 Apr	44			42		2 (Interdict)
26 Apr	60	6		33		3 (CAS) 18 (Interdict)
27 Apr	77	10		48		19 (CAS)
28 Apr	57			55		7 (CAS)
29 Apr	69	26		35		6 (CAS) 2 (Interdict)
30 Apr	64			45	3	16 (CAS)
1 May	60			39		21 (CAS)
2 May	50		2	42		6 (CAS)
3 May	30			22	6	2 (VC in open)
4 May	20			10	2	8 (CAS)
5 May	48	9		32	2	5 (CAS)
6 May	37		3	32		2 (interdict)
7 May	40		11	24		5 (CAS)
8 May	45	9		31	3	2 (Cover)
9 May	42			25		17 (CAS)
10 May	23			23		
11 May	42		6	34		2 (VC in open)
12 May	31	4		25		2 (LZ)
13 May	40			36		4 (Cover)
14 May	35			35		
15 May	40			36		
16 May	<u>21</u>		<u>21</u>			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,046</b>		<b>89</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>731</b>	<b>16 163</b>

(2) How and When Employed: The 7th USAF had the mission of providing air support for the operation. TAC air was employed on targets in the priorities listed below:

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

28

- (a) Neutralization of enemy forces in contact.
- (b) Destruction of reported enemy formations and occupied base areas.
- (c) Interdiction of enemy routes of reinforcement and withdrawal.
- (d) Destruction of known bases and storage areas.

(3) Control Measures: All but the SKY SPOT (Radar bombing) flights were FAC controlled. Target clearance was controlled through several means. Brigade AO boundaries were utilized as FCL's during the operation and all strikes in the AOs were cleared by respective brigade ground elements prior to execution. Areas outside brigade AOs but within the division AO were cleared by G3 Air.

(4) Communication:

(a) Preplanned requests were initially submitted by brigades to G3 Air (Fwd) on VHF sole users circuits. These were then passed to II FFORCEV, with G3 Air (Rear) monitoring. The VHF capability to the brigades was lost midway through the operation and preplans were passed by either USAF HF radio or Liaison Officer. Although the method was not as satisfactory as the original method, requests were generally submitted in a timely manner.

(b) Immediate requests were submitted in the standard manner by the FAC passing the request by VHF to either G3 Air (Fwd) or Rear, who would then pass it to DASC via VHF sole user. No immediate requests were submitted directly to the DASC by units on HF. It is doubtful if the attempt would have been successful due to interference and antenna limitations.

(5) Effectiveness:

(a) Close air support missions in support of units in contact or destruction of targets located by units were highly effective. During the extraction of a Long Range Patrol in contact with a sizeable VC force, 150 VC were killed by air. Success of the extraction is attributable to the use of tactical air.

(b) Interdiction missions were attempted by the division for the first time on a large scale. Some of the results were not wholly satisfactory and the interdiction program was inhibited by the following factors:

1. Lack of experience in conducting an interdiction program at all levels.
2. Lack of sufficient O1 aircraft. Consequently FACs were able to operate only in the vicinity of brigade AOs. Interdiction targets over ten miles away from the AO could be hit only on a limited basis.
3. Lack of ordnance, especially medium and large general purpose bombs. As a result, a small number of available sorties hit fewer targets than was desired.
4. Lack of definite targeting data in the initial phases of the operation. Most information was not current and its source could not be evaluated. As the operation progressed, intelligence improved and more lucrative targets were developed during the latter stages.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

## (6) Results:

Buildings destroyed	73
Bunkers destroyed	33
Sampans destroyed	2
Gun emplacement destroyed	5
Rice destroyed (tons)	100 (est)
POL drums destroyed	50
Bridges destroyed	3
VC KBA (BG)	9
VC KBA (est)	255
Secondary explosion	12

## (7) Ordnance expended:

HE	333.5 Tons
Napalm	439.7 Tons
Fragmentation	34.8 Tons
CBU	203 Cannisters
WP	16.9 Tons
Zuni Rockets	48

## e. USAF Tactical Airlift:

(1) Deployment. Initial plans called for five infantry battalions, five artillery batteries, and two brigade headquarters to make a combat assault landing at TAY NINH 3 Airfield (4600 foot laterite strip) on D-Day. To accomplish this, 13 C-130 aircraft would have to complete 75 sorties. One infantry battalion would initially secure the strip and the remainder of the units would be landing utilizing a 10 minute interval corridor operation.

During a planning conference, MACV-J4 personnel stated that the strip would be unable to support 75 sorties in one day, but would probably support a maximum of 60. Plans were adjusted whereby one battalion of infantry and one artillery battery were pre-positioned at DAU TIEU on D-1 by C-123 and a second infantry battalion was lifted into the small dirt strip at SVOI DA on D-Day by CV-2. The remaining elements were to be lifted in approximately 67 sorties to TAY NINH 3. All combat elements would be moved by 7 C-130 in 57 sorties on D-Day. The remainder would be moved on D+1.

On D-Day, 2d Bn, 16th Inf, landed at 0625, utilizing a formation assault landing, closing in 20 minutes. During the day 2200 passengers and 400.3 tons of equipment were air landed by C-130. Fifty-eight sorties were flown and at no time was the area congested. By utilizing high density loading techniques, the 53 sorties on D-Day lifted all but five loads which were delivered on D+1. It was readily apparent that the strip could have supported more than 60 sorties on D-Day.

(2) Resupply. Initially, all resupply was to be by air with the majority of Class I, III, and V carried by USAF fixed wing aircraft. It was the responsibility of 1st Logistical Command to program this resupply to their forward elements at TAY NINH. A total of 6,460 tons were delivered, primarily by C-130 aircraft, with a daily average of 306.4 tons. Some resupply missions continued all night. Some difficulty was experienced by pilots in finding the field which was lit by "bean bag" portable lights and flare pots.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

(3) Extraction. The initial plan called for extraction of the majority of the units by fixed wing aircraft from TAY NINH. Due to the change in the area of operation, many units were in close proximity to their base camps at the termination. Consequently, the USAF participation in the extraction was limited to movement of equipment and material that could not be moved by road convoy from TAY NINH, such as forklifts and salvage vehicles. Twenty sorties were flown to complete the extraction phase.

A total of 716 C-130 and C-123 sorties were flown during Operation BIRMINGHAM, carrying 7863.6 tons. The airstrip remained in excellent condition throughout the operation, requiring a minimum of maintenance effort in spite of moderate rainfall during the latter stages.

f. U.S. Army Aviation:

(1) Size of Force:

1st Aviation Battalion  
 11th Aviation Battalion  
 116th Aviation Company (UH-1)  
 126th Aviation Company (UH-1)  
 162d Aviation Company (UH-1)  
 173d Aviation Company (UH-1)  
 147th Aviation Company (CH-47)  
 173d Aviation Company (CH-47)  
 125th ATC (Air Traffic Control Team)

(2) How and When Employed:

(a) 1st Aviation Battalion. The battalion provided general aviation support for the 1st Infantry Division. An Aviation Air Traffic Control facility was provided at TAY NINH (West) and DAU TIENG Airfields during the operation. The battalion moved to TAY NINH (West) Airfield on 24 April and established a division base airfield operation which continued until termination of Operation BIRMINGHAM. The battalion provided three UH-1D aircraft for the Division Command Group and four OH-13 aircraft for the Division Tac GP.

The following was accomplished during the period 24 April - 16 May:

HOURS FLOWN	SORTIES	CARGO MOVED	PASSENGERS MOVED
UH-1 - 1,141; OH-13 - 400; OV-1 - 121	4,311	71.7 Tons	4,311

(b) 11th Aviation Battalion. The battalion was placed in direct support of the division. Initial planning indicated that support could best be rendered from a forward location within the area of operations. The Headquarters Detachment(-), two airmobile companies, and one medium helicopter company(-) displaced to TAY NINH 1 Airfield. Battalion liaison officers were attached to each of the participating brigades and support command. One air mobile company was placed in direct support of each brigade for resupply missions and the medium helicopter company was placed in general support for logistic resupply of the division. All requirements for aerial resupply of the brigades were channeled through the brigade liaison officers direct to the battalion for execution.

The battalion, with four airmobile companies, provided 30 UH-1D's and 12 CH-47's to airlift elements of the division from LAI ZHE and the forward staging areas and conducted combat assaults into preselected landing zones in the area of operation.

CONFIDENTIAL

31  
CONFIDENTIAL

The following was accomplished during the course of Operation BIRMINGHAM:

	<u>116th</u>	<u>128th</u>	<u>162d</u>	<u>173d</u>	<u>147th</u>	<u>173th</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Sorties	5,376	227	5,147	1,141	226	2,071	14,633
Passengers	9,397	461	8,779	3,987	689	6,133	29,496
Cargo (Ton)	463.1	16.1	376.4	23.9	305.1	2,795.2	3,934.3
Hours	1,740.7	635.2	1,613.0	507.2	168.5	697.2	5,374.3

C. Chemical Operations Summary: During Operation BIRMINGHAM, an unprecedented amount of riot control agent was expended for 1st Infantry Division operations. A total of ten E-153 Air Droppable CS Clusters and three hundred barrels of CS-1 (24,000 lbs) were delivered from Army aircraft against known and suspected VC troop concentrations. In each case, CS use was followed up by air strikes, artillery preparations, and/or infantry attacks within ten minutes after completion of the drop. In all CS attacks but two, targets were located so deep in the jungle that follow-up by ground attack was not possible at the time. In two attacks, with E-153 clusters, the targets were enemy troops who were directing fire against helicopters. In both instances, the fire was suppressed after the clusters functioned on the target. In two CS attacks followed up by ground forces, no VC were found in the target area.

9. RESULTS: a. Friendly losses:

KIA 56  
WIA 324  
MIA 1

Equipment lost: None  
Equipment destroyed:

1 - 0-1  
2 - M-113 APC's  
1 - 5-ton truck  
1 - AN/FRT-69  
1 - 1½-ton trailer  
2 - 10 kw generators  
1 - ½-ton truck

Equipment damaged:

15 - UH-1D's  
6 - CH-47's  
7 - M-113 APC's  
1 - M-47A3 tank  
2 - 5-ton bridge trucks  
2 - 5-ton trucks  
1 - AN/FRT-69  
1 - fuel tanker  
1 - front loader  
1 - 2½-ton truck

b. Enemy losses:

KIA (Body Count) 118  
KIA (Probable) 307  
VCC 20  
VCS 162  
Returns 30

Equipment destroyed or captured:

130 - weapons  
66 - base camps  
63 - caches

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

6 - aid stations  
 3 - hospitals  
 4 - factories  
 6 - FOL dumps  
 1 - Political Indoctrination Center  
 1 - boat repair shop  
 4 - miscellaneous production facilities  
 2 - bicycle repair shop  
 106 - mines and booby traps  
 358 - grenades  
 3,839 - SA ammo  
 2 - 250 lb bombs  
 24 - mortar rounds  
 16 - howitzer rounds  
 43 - CBU bomblets  
 2,103 - rice (tons)  
 323 - salt (tons)  
 35 - wheat (tons)  
 16.5-miscellaneous food-stuffs (tons)  
 1,240 - cooking oil (gal)  
 1,332 - motor oil (gal)  
 13,949 - shirts  
 3,603 - pants  
 175 - bicycles  
 24 - sewing machines  
 2,520 - kerosene (gal)  
 163 - boats and sampans  
 3 - typewriters  
 5,800 - cement (lbs)  
 6 - motors  
 985 - sheets of tin  
 2 - refrigerators  
 1 - threshing machine  
 13,000 - lumber (board feet)  
 1 - generator  
 1 - printing press  
 3 - stoves  
 810 - huts  
 1,162 - batteries (BA-30)  
 1,300 - soap (bars)  
 3,000 - Fuel (gal)  
 16,633 - documents screened (pages)

## 10. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER: a. Logistics:

(1) Preparation. Preparation for Operation BIRCHINGHAM included a detailed analysis of experience gained during previous operations, especially Operation ABILISKI. Close coordination was effected between all elements of the 1st Division Support Command, C-4, participating S-4's, and 1st Logistical Command. Specific areas which proved of most importance were:

- (a) Pre-positioning aircraft fuels at TAX HIDE 1 Airfield prior to D-Day.
- (b) Establishment (by the 1st Logistical Command) of a Forward Ammunition Supply Point and controlling the movement of all classes of

CONFIDENTIAL

33

CONFIDENTIAL

supply to the forward areas from BIEN HOA and TAN SON NHUT Air Bases. In addition, 1st Logistical Command furnished the required Materials Handling Equipment (MHE), and augmented the refueling equipment of the division.

(c) The establishment of a central coordinating point for control of logistic aircraft within the Division Transportation Office.

(d) A composite maintenance facility and a composite medical clearing station for the support of the entire force were set up at the logistical base.

(e) Establishment of a scheduled passenger and cargo flight daily between each base camp and the logistical base.

Although some adjustments were required during the operation, the basic plans and preparations made prior to the operation were sound, and resulted in the support command providing outstanding logistical support to all units during the entire operation. The extension of the time frame of the operation and introduction of additional forces required the augmentation of certain facilities. This was done quickly and effectively without hindering the logistical support rendered.

(2) Execution:

(a) Supply.

CONFIDENTIAL

1. Class I. The supply of this commodity was accomplished with minimum difficulty. Sufficient "A" ration components were furnished to provide all troops with at least one modified "A" meal daily. Support troops, and all combat units during the "rest period", were provided modified "A" rations, three times daily. Sufficient ice was made available through local procurement with Interest Funds and resupply from DI AN base. Sundry packs were issued every five days. Volume of Class I operation:

"A" ration components 107,380 rations  
 "B" ration components 138,445 rations  
 "C" ration 72,313 rations  
 318,643 or 718.4 short tons

2. Class II and IV (less repair parts). Units carried anticipated Class II and IV requirements in their battalion trains. However, experience during the operation indicated that some units did not carry adequate Class II and IV items to sustain them during the operation; and this was noticed early in the first week when emergency requisitions were placed for basic re-supply items which should have been available in battalion trains. Extension of the operation time frame increased the number of demands received for Class II and IV items. All were filled in a minimum of time. Typical of items requested were gas masks and component parts, barrier materials, ponchos, lanterns, water cans, nylon rope and marker panels. Volume of Class II and IV during the operation totaled 40 short tons.

3. Class III. Fuel dispensing equipment was the limiting factor on speed and efficiency of refueling operations. Additional equipment acquired from the 1st Logistical Command made it possible to support the operations effectively. The Mini-Port system again proved their extreme value. Additional Mini-Ports or greater capacity pumps and more components are required to improve the speed and efficiency of refueling operations. A total of 12 each 10,000 gallon collapsible storage tank were utilized giving the log base a 120,000 gallon storage capacity.

CONFIDENTIAL

"A" ration components 107,380 rations  
 "B" ration components 138,445 rations  
 "C" ration 72,313 rations  
 318,643 or 718.4 short tons

34

CONFIDENTIAL

POL resupply of the logistical base was accomplished almost entirely by air, utilizing the Air Force "Flying Cow", and 500 gallon collapsible drums. Sufficient POL of all types was on hand during the entire operation. Volume of operations:

MOGAS	106,720 gallons
DIESEL	111,127 gallons
JP-4	1,021,125 gallons
AVGAS	<u>56,917</u> gallons
TOTAL	1,295,839 or 3,444.9 short tons

4. Class V. Personnel from the 1st Logistical Command's 3d Ordnance Battalion drew the required ammunition from the LONG BINH Ammunition Depot, transported it to the BIEN HOA Air Base, loaded the items on USAF C-130 aircraft, off-loaded, and stored it at their forward ASP at TAY NINH (West). They provided the personnel and materiel handling equipment (MHE) at both aerial ports to support the operation. 1st Infantry Division units drew the required ammunition from the forward ASP as required. The forward ASP was automatically resupplied, based on the daily required rate of supply established by the 1st Infantry Division DAO. Stocks were adjusted based on changes in the daily required rate of supply.

At the time the daily required rate of supply for 105mm and 155mm artillery ammunition tripled, it became necessary to augment the airlift capability with land ammunition convoys. 1st Log Command's goal was to establish a three day supply on the ground at the forward ASP by the seventh day of the operation. This was accomplished on the sixth day. 1st Logistical Command later required the forward ASP to have three days of supply on the ground with an additional two days on the vehicles generated by the second land convoy.

The DAO section established an office at the forward ASP providing the units drawing ammunition with "one stop" service. Ammunition Transportation Orders (DA Form 581) were voucherized, authenticated and reviewed by DAO personnel located at the ASP Operations and Stock Control Office. This also provided the 1st Infantry Division and support command staff with instantaneous Class V stock status information throughout the operation. With this information, critical Class V items were closely monitored and adjustments in the amounts on hand made before a shortage problem developed. At no time during the operation were units tactically restricted due to lack of ammunition.

The brigade and artillery trains, located at the Division Log Base, resupplied forward units by land, and airlift from their trains supply. They, in turn, replenished their trains from the forward ASP, as required. By close liaison, and coordination between the DAO, and the brigade and artillery battalion S-4's, anticipated requirements were known and provided for in sufficient time to preclude any problem areas. The trains were always full, and the forward units were always supplied. The only resupply problems, continually faced by the units, was one of availability of aircraft for lifting ammunition forward.

During the final phase of the operation, a large amount of ammunition was on hand at the forward ASP. All 1st Infantry Division trains were filled to capacity upon the termination of the operation. The excess of ammunition on hand at the conclusion of the operation was issued to the 25th Infantry Division, and the TAY NINH Detachment, 5th Special Forces Group. Approximately 72 tons were back-hauled to the LONG BINH Ammunition Depot by 1st Logistical Command and 1st Infantry Division's S-4 Battalion vehicles. Volume of operations totaled 3,238 short tons.

CONFIDENTIAL

35

CONFIDENTIAL

## (b) Services.

(1) Laundry. This service was provided to all units. It was not used extensively and was relatively slow, averaging 60 hours from turn-in to completion. However, it is believed that this service is necessary and continued efforts will be made to improve it. Approximately 350 bundles were processed.

(2) Bath. Initially, bath service was provided by prefabricated shower facilities. During the rest phase of the operation, the bath unit located at DI AN Base was moved to the rest area for troop use during that period. After the rest phase, the unit was moved to the logistical base, and provided shower facilities for personnel at the logistical base. Water was furnished by a 5,000 gallon tanker, provided by the 1st Logistical Command.

(3) Graves Registration. During the period 24 April 1966 through 15 May 1966, the following number of remains were processed, and evacuated from the Forward Collection and Evacuation Section to the 1st Infantry Division Collection Point at DI AN, Vietnam. One enemy dead was evacuated to the 5th Special Forces Detachment at TAY NINH, Vietnam, on 24 April 1966.

<u>NUMBER BY DAY</u>		<u>NUMBER BY UNITS</u>	
24 Apr	0	1st Bn, 2d Inf	22
25 Apr	11	2d Bn, 18th Inf	6
26 Apr	6	1st Bn, 28th Inf	6
27 Apr	2	2d Bn, 2d Inf	5
28 Apr	2	2d Bn, 28th Inf	5
29 Apr	13 (1 non-div)	1st Bn, 16th Inf	4
30 Apr	8	4th Cav	4
1 May	3	1st Bn, 18th Inf	3
2 May	0	2d Bn, 16th Inf	2
3 May	1 (non-div)	1st Eng Bn	2
4 May	2	1st Bn, 5th Arty	1
5 May	2	HHC Div	1
6 May	0	8th Bn, 6th Arty	1
7 May	0	74th Avn	1 (non-div)
8 May	3	5th Sp Force Gp	1 (non-div)
9 May	0	Total:	64
10 May	1		
11 May	1		
12 May	7		
13 May	0		
14 May	1		
15 May	1		
<b>Total:</b>	<b>64</b>		

(c) Maintenance. The maintenance element initially took direct exchange (DX) items, i.e., carburetors, regulators, distributors, a small amount of major assemblies (generator engines), and gaskets to sustain a two week operation. Resupply of other supply items was accomplished by air from TAY NINH Log Base. Initial planning provided two CH-47's and one UH-1 to support command elements for logistics resupply. These were frequently not available to resupply repair parts from DI AN to TAY NINH. A 2½-ton truck load of repair parts was required daily. Special flights had to be requested each day to transport these parts. The CV-2 courier service could not be used since the aircraft was frequently loaded by the time it reached BIEN HOA and lacked room for the load of repair parts. Resupply would have been more responsive if a CH-47 had been available on a daily basis. The following jobs were completed during the operation:

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

48	- Automotive
184	- Electronic
8	- Instrument
21	- Artillery
35	- Small Arms
30	- Engineer Equipment
158	- Aircraft and Components
484	- Total

Removal of unserviceable sub-assemblies (regulators, generators, etc), by using units hindered the repair of equipment. The piece of equipment could not be completed until the unit returned the items which had been removed. Aircraft maintenance was accomplished on site by a contact team which remained in the log base area. Minor repairs and adjustments were made on site. Major repairs were accomplished by the maintenance base at PHU LOI. The organic aircraft flew a total of 38.8 hours and carried 52 passengers and 3,150 pounds of cargo.

(d) Medical. Treatment of casualties at field locations was excellent. Infantry platoon aidmen displayed outstanding ability and ingenuity in using field expedients. Patients came to clearing station with arm and leg splints made from tree limbs and ponchos. Also, litters were improvised from tree limbs and ponchos. Hospitalization was furnished by 93d Evacuation Hospital, 3d Surgical Hospital, Mobile Army, and 3d Field Hospital. Two surgical teams from 3d Surgical Hospital, Mobile Army, consisting of six officers, and eight enlisted men, were attached to 1st Medical Battalion for Operation BIRMINGHAM. They performed five major surgical procedures, and assisted in medical treatment, and provided medical guidance concerning care of numerous other patients.

Medical equipment repair was not needed which indicates excellent first echelon maintenance of medical equipment throughout the division.

DUSTOFF made approximately 150 field pickups, evacuating 286 casualties. At all times there were two standby aircraft, and three during the last eight days of the operation.

This division provided 4,755 pounds (200 cubic feet) of medical supplies. One-hundred and thirty units of whole blood were furnished to the forward area. Method of resupply was exclusively by DUSTOFF, to include three emergency resupply missions and one mission flown for resupply of whole blood.

An evaluation of the medical portion of Operation BIRMINGHAM shows that medical support was adequate. The following casualty figures indicate medical support furnished by forward elements of 1st Medical Battalion:

KIA's DOA's	54
Injured as a result of hostile action	307
Non-battle injuries	244
Diseases	356
Died of wounds in clearing station	7
Number of air evacuations from forward area to hospitals and rear clearing station	483

(e) Transportation. Aircraft requests for logistical resupply were coordinated by the DTO throughout the operation. Both the DTO Forward and DTO Rear were used extensively for this purpose. A courier aircraft (CV-2B Caribou) was made available to all units. Each base camp had utilization of at least one full aircraft for a round trip to and from the division log base. This aircraft was used extensively for

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

37

resupply. The DTO operated an aircraft request and coordination center for all types of aircraft. Requirements which could not be met with aircraft in the operational area were placed on the DTO Rear where additional aircraft were obtained. The courier aircraft (CV-2B) was under the operational control of DTO Forward. The original schedule, established prior to the operation, was found to be inadequate to the needs of the operation, and an additional aircraft was acquired. At the suggestion of AACG Rear, the schedule was completely changed, reducing the number of aircraft to one, and eliminating the round-robin schedule in favor of a direct round trip flight to each base camp. When initiated this new schedule was found most satisfactory in that it provided greater lift capability to each base camp while simultaneously reducing the number of aircraft required. The courier flight averaged fourteen sorties daily. Each sortie carried 5,000 pounds cargo or passenger equivalent. The DTO supervised the operations of the Air Transport Control Office (ATCO). ATCO personnel were provided by the 1st Aviation Battalion.

(f) Engineer Support. One of the primary missions of the 1st Engineer Battalion, during Operation BIRMINGHAM was to open and maintain roads from XT 253500 to XT 291678 and XT 371424 to XT 483469. These roads were opened and passed wheel vehicles to and from forward areas despite adverse construction weather. Four T-17 membranes were installed to be utilized as hasty helicopter landing pads. Approximately 240,000 gallons of potable water were processed. Mine clearing operations were extremely extensive; approximately 23 mines in various locations were encountered and either removed or detonated in place.

(g) Communications. The hot line to Division Supply Forward was not installed until D+2, causing minor delays prior to and during the early days of the exercise. The logistics operations are dependent upon rapid, reliable communication with the forward area.

b. Personnel: Strengths of engineers, artillery, and cavalry were as follows:

	<u>Start of Operation</u>	<u>End of Operation</u>
1st Infgr Bn(-)	274	295
HNB Div Arty(-)	106	106
3th Bn, 6th Arty(-)	192	190
1st Bn, 5th Arty(-)	489	485
2d Bn, 33d Arty(-)	338	336
3d Bn, 319th Arty(-)	190	177
B Btry, 2d Bn, 13th Arty	96	117
B Btry, 1st Bn, 7th Arty	83	68
A Btry, 6th Bn, 27th Arty	120	119
A Btry, 2d Bn, 32d Arty	102	111
C Btry, 2d Bn, 32d Arty	112	118
1st Sqdn, 4th Cav	696	745

c. Administrative matters for 1st, 2d, and 3d Brigades are included in Annexes I, J, and K.

11. SPECIAL EQUIPMENT AND TECHNIQUES: a. Fifty-five Gallon Drums of CS-1. Fifty-five gallon drums, each containing 80 pounds of CS-1 (as shipped) were rigged with two M-4 Incendiary Bursters, a length of safety fuse, and a fuse lighter. The fuse was cut to allow the drum to function with a height of burst of about ten feet. The drums were dropped from CH-47 and CV-2 aircraft, after ignition of the fuse with the attached fuse lighter. Four missions were flown, three with 90 drums each (7,200 pounds of CS-1) and one with 30 drums (2,400 pounds of CS-1). All missions

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

38

were against suspected Viet Cong targets and one mission, after air and artillery preparation, was followed within ten minutes by an infantry attack. Ground forces reported heavy residual contamination of the target area, with eye irritation reported nine kilometers downwind from the target.

b. Experimental Fuze IM595. Tests of this fuze were conducted by 8th Bn, 6th Arty (155mm) and 1st Bn, 5th Arty (105mm) on 6, 9, and 10 May. Sixty-seven rounds were expended. The fuze is designed to allow rounds to penetrate the jungle canopy, but burst prior to striking the ground. The rounds fitted with this fuze during the test were erratic in detonating and were observed to detonate above the canopy and between the canopy and on the ground using the same time setting after a time registration. Most of the rounds that did not burst in the air, struck the ground as duds. Height of canopy was estimated to be 20 meters. Recommend additional tests be conducted where a higher canopy exists to derive valid conclusions as to the fuze effectiveness.

c. Propaganda Shell. Ten rounds of 105mm shell, containing 600 leaflets each were fired over the area south of the village of LO GO. The projectiles functioned well at all heights of burst and excellent coverage was obtained within the target area. This represented the first use of artillery for dispensing leaflets by the division.

d. AN/TPS-25 Radar. Division Artillery utilized the AN/TPS-25 Surveillance Radar in conjunction with firing elements. The radar proved especially effective in detecting movement of personnel, with at least 12 targets being located by radar. The equipment also provided surveillance of artillery placed on these targets.

e. T-17 Membranes. T-17 membranes were used on helipads. These proved to be very effective for DUSTOFF pads in the medical areas and refueling pads in the POL area.

f. M-79 Canister Round. The 1st and 2d Bns, 28th Inf tested the canister round for the M-79 grenade launcher. The round proved marginal in its initial tests. The range is quite limited and it was necessary to aim extremely low when engaging targets at a distance of 40 meters. This round is more effective than the HE round in dense jungle vegetation.

12. COMMANDERS ANALYSIS: Operation BIRMINGHAM was another highly successful operation in which the division again demonstrated its ability and willingness to move rapidly to a distant area of operations for the conduct of extended jungle operations while retaining high morale and fighting effectiveness. This operation was the first deep penetration of War Zone C since 1961 and would have been deeper and more prolonged had the approaching monsoon season not intervened.

The most significant aspect of Operation BIRMINGHAM was the large scale destruction of vast quantities of VC supplies and facilities enumerated in paragraph 9b. This operation is certain to have a long term adverse impact on VC ability to shelter, feed and equip large numbers of personnel while immediate results may force postponement or cancellation of the predicted VC "Monsoon Campaign". Notwithstanding, the material losses, the loss of prestige and control in an area formerly considered a safe haven is expected to result in a demoralizing blow to VC stability and influence in TAY NINH Province.

Possibly, no other operation in Vietnam has accomplished such extensive damage to VC logistics and base systems. Unquestionably, some of the largest supply caches of the Vietnamese conflict were located and

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

39

destroyed during the three week offensive. As the operational area shifted westward to the RACH CAI BAC River, large stores of captured material confirmed reports of numerous supply installations along the CAMBODIAN Border. The location of installations in this area is attributed to the convenient access to supply routes from CAMBODIA, the use by the VC of the RACH CAI BAC River and its tributaries as water routes, and the fact that B-52 strikes have been offset 500 - 1000 meters from the border to preclude bombs striking CAMBODIAN territory. The type of VC installations discovered revealed that the area is used primarily for recuperation, training, and as a massive supply base. There were few food producing areas encountered, further substantiating the premise that most foodstuffs are transported from other locations into the area. In analyzing the location of storage areas, it is now established that supplies are moved rapidly, at night, from their border locations eastward into way stations between War Zones C and D, thus effectively avoiding B-52 strike zones.

The operation did not succeed in engaging major VC forces although one battalion of the 70th Regiment was severely crippled at LO GO. The number of VC killed and captured, although not as high as some of our past operations, represents a respectable total. An encouraging feature of the operation was the return of thirty VC to GVN control, their defection credited largely to division operations in War Zone C. The Battle of LO GO further proved the effectiveness of the combined arms team. Following heavy artillery and air preparations, two infantry battalions demonstrated their ability to maneuver in close terrain and successfully engage and destroy enemy forces. Despite this successful battle engagement, there still exists a requirement for additional training at squad and platoon level in fire and movement, marksmanship, and quick reaction battle drills. To remedy this deficiency squad and platoon battle courses have been designed at all brigade base locations.

The division continued to improve airmobile assault techniques. The problem of delivering concentrated firepower on LZ's was resolved by compressing the time devoted to the preparation and increasing the close air support sortie rate and preparatory artillery concentrations. More advanced control measures have been developed to provide continuous firepower on the periphery of LZs subsequent to the airlanding of assault elements. Greater emphasis is also being placed on early liaison by supporting airmobile elements down to the infantry battalion level. This latter requirement has materially improved the precision of our airmobile assaults. During this operation a standardized system of smoke signals was prescribed and coordinated with interested agencies for use throughout Vietnam.

In the logistics area, the division attempted for the first time in Vietnam to utilize direct exchange of TA-50 (tropical fatigue jackets and trousers) clothing during a combat operation away from base camp. Direct exchange of unmarked clothing permitted mass laundering and eliminated the need for individual bags, unit segregation and controlled handling of laundry. The direct exchange was only partially successful because of limited availability of replacement clothing which permitted exchange of only 480 sets of fatigues in each infantry battalion. Accordingly, a few elements of the infantry battalions and all combat and combat support units did not benefit from the system.

13. LESSONS LEARNED: a. Troops employed on ambush sites have a tendency to fire prematurely when observing enemy targets. Additional indoctrination is necessary to emphasize letting the enemy move in closer with the higher possibility of achieving first round kills. Units must also conduct additional marksmanship training while in base camps with emphasis on rapid, snap fire shooting and aiming low.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

40

b. A guide for the length of time a unit should be involved on extended search and destroy operations during the rainy season is from eight to ten days. Personnel operating for longer periods in wet clothing are quite prone to the development of sores, heat rashes, and respiratory ailments. These ailments can be minimized with emphasis on personal hygiene and immediate treatment, but they will not be eliminated entirely.

c. One of the most effective methods of surrounding and sealing villages is to move elements during the hours of darkness, completing the move prior to first light, thus trapping local VC in their homes. Varying the times and methods of surrounding the villages enhances the chances for success.

d. Company size units require drying boxes or rooms for radios and optical equipment to permit them to commence operations with dry radios and batteries, thus insuring greater reliability of the equipment.

e. There is a distinct need for battalion commanders to have an LOH at their disposal. The lack of prominent terrain features coupled with the dense growth normally encountered in Vietnam are sufficient to disorient the most experienced land navigators. The LOH capability becomes more imperative during movement to contact and during pursuit to assist in vectoring units to desired intermediate objectives.

f. Long range reconnaissance patrols are one of the most effective intelligence gathering agencies. These patrols must be rapidly reinforced once engaged to further develop the situation and fix the enemy.

g. The use of T-17 membranes on heli-pads are extremely effective, particularly for DUSTOFF (helicopter medical evacuation) and refueling pads. Membranes can be emplaced with a minimum of time and effort. Sandbagging is preferable to burying the edges to permit more rapid displacement to a new location.

h. Expedient earth filled causeways and culverts are the best solution to improving and upgrading roads particularly where VC have access to the area at right and can easily demolish bridges. Culverts, unlike bridging, are not removed upon termination of operations in the area.

i. Massive CS attacks on suspected or known enemy locations are feasible and practical. The application of CS should be approximately 30 drums (2,400 pounds) per square kilometer of target area. This munition is effective for terrain contamination and creates an effective cloud that drifts with the wind. CS strikes should be followed by air and artillery preparation and when possible, exploited by ground forces.

j. Troops should carry a minimum of two quarts of water on all operations and no less than eight salt tablets per day. With profuse sweating, eight tablets may be consumed daily, each dose to be taken with water.

k. When their unit becomes engaged commanders are very often reluctant to use all available fire support because of the difficulty in identifying their own front line positions in the jungle. Commanders must nevertheless continue to call on available air and artillery support to block enemy routes of withdrawal or reinforcement and to strike probable VC rallying or attack positions.

l. VC base camps, caches and logistical installations continue to be discovered along roads, water routes and trails. Operations conducted in dense jungle areas lacking routes of communication are generally unproductive.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

41

m. The direct exchange of unmarked fatigue clothing to allow mass laundering requires sufficient stocks of clothing to provide two sets for all combat and combat support troops engaged in the operation.

ANNEXES:

- A -- Operations Overlay
- B -- Deception Plan Operations Overlay
- C -- PsyOps Leaflets
- D -- Operations Overlay Frag Order 44-66
- E -- Operations Overlay Frag Order 45-66
- F -- Operations Overlay Frag Order 46-66
- G -- Operations Overlay Frag Order 47-66
- H -- Recapitulation of Arty Missions Fired
- I -- After Action Report 1st Bde
- J -- After Action Report 2d Bde
- K -- After Action Report 3d Bde

CONFIDENTIAL

0 0 7

42

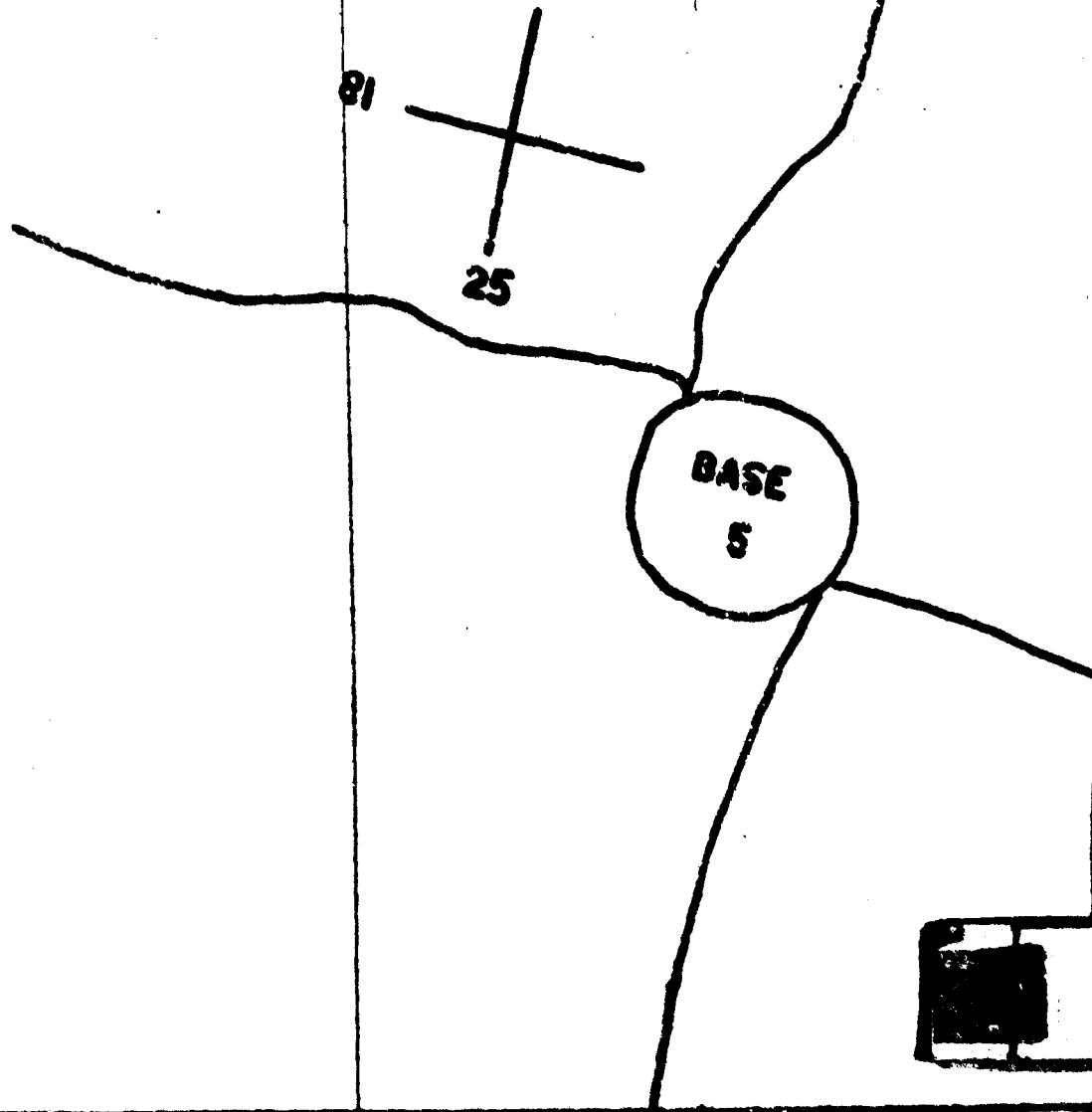
ANNEX A

OPERATIONS OVERLAY

CONFIDENTIAL

ANNEX A TO COMBAT OPN AFTER ACTION REPORT  
OPN BIRMINGHAM (OPN O'LAY)

SHEET 1 OF 2 SHEETS



CONFIDENTIAL

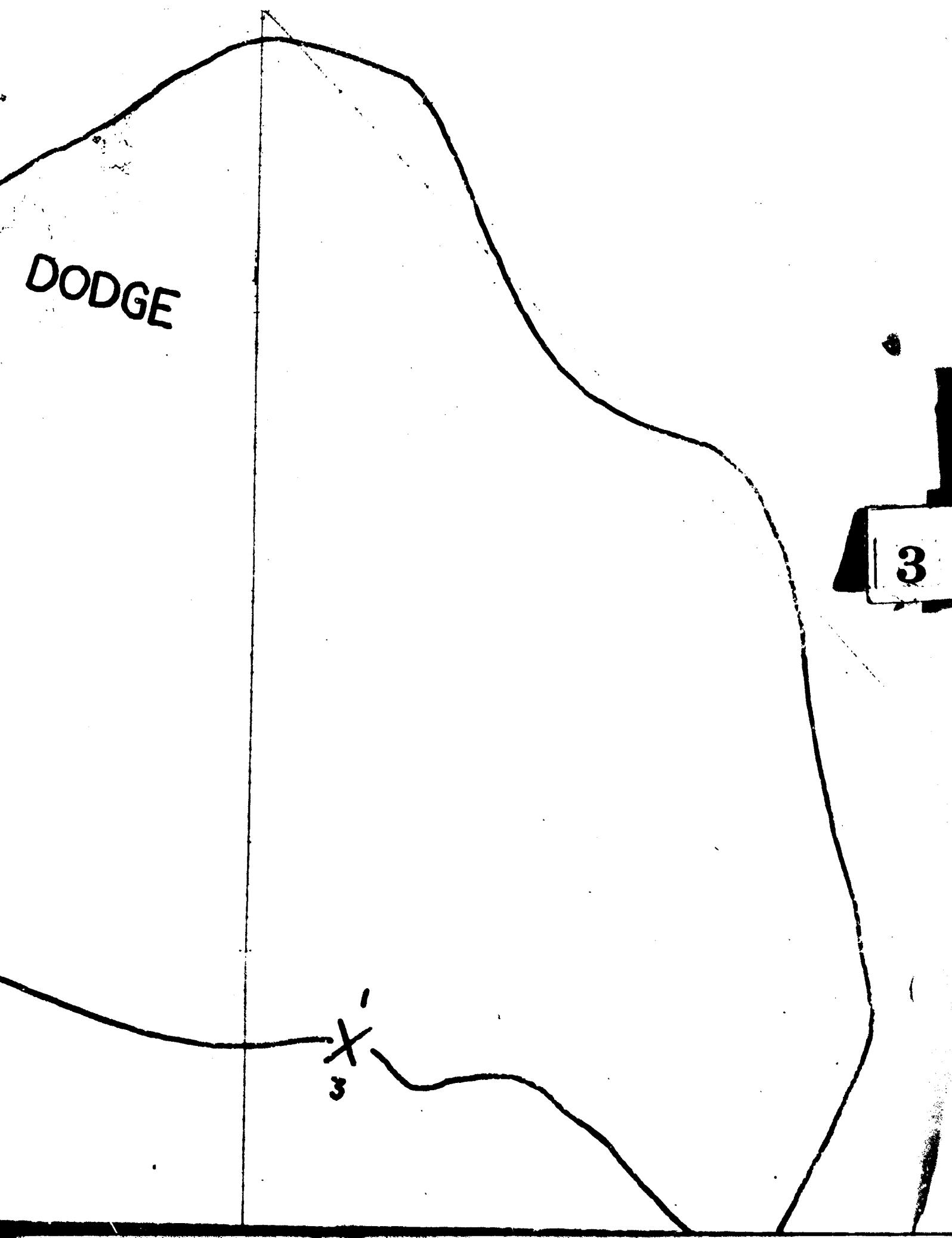
ACTION REPORT

)

DODGE

BASE  
5

3



OBILE

BASE  
4

R

4

PLYMOUTH

RAMBLER

X  
3

YMOU

R

3

6

43

-73

RAN

CONFIDE

RAMBLER

CONFIDENTIAL

ANNEX G TO COMBAT OPNS AFTER ACTION REPORT  
OPN BIRMINGHAM

+

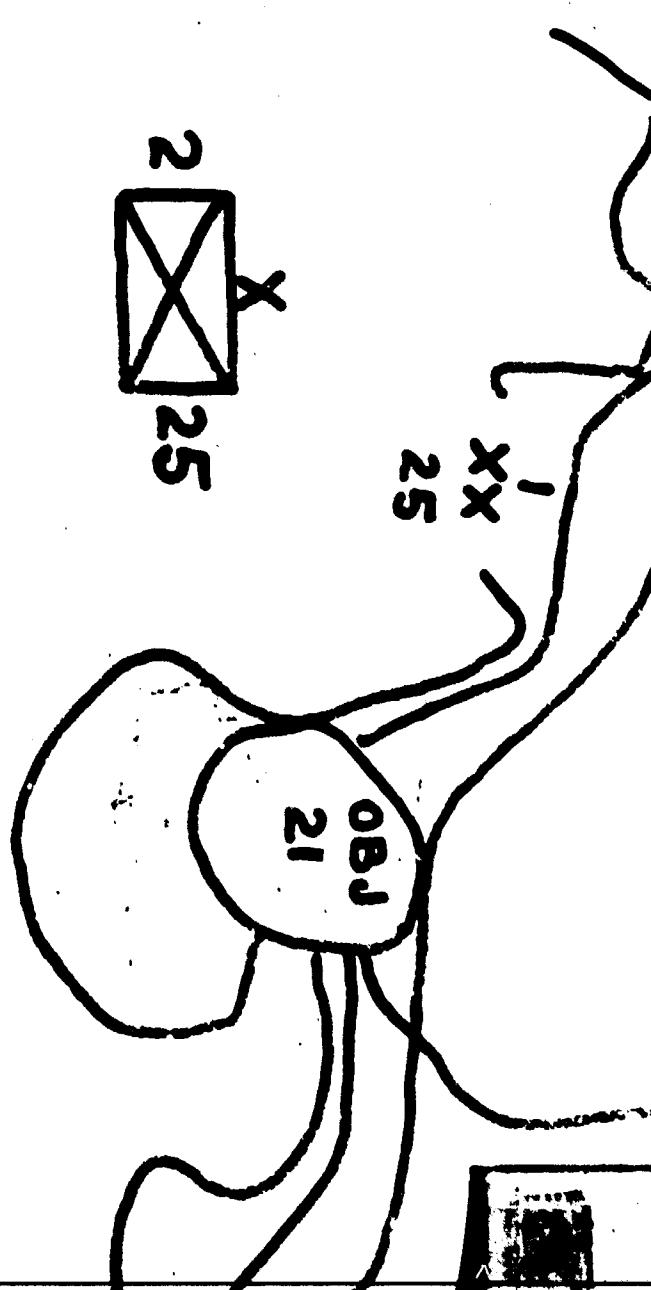
21

60

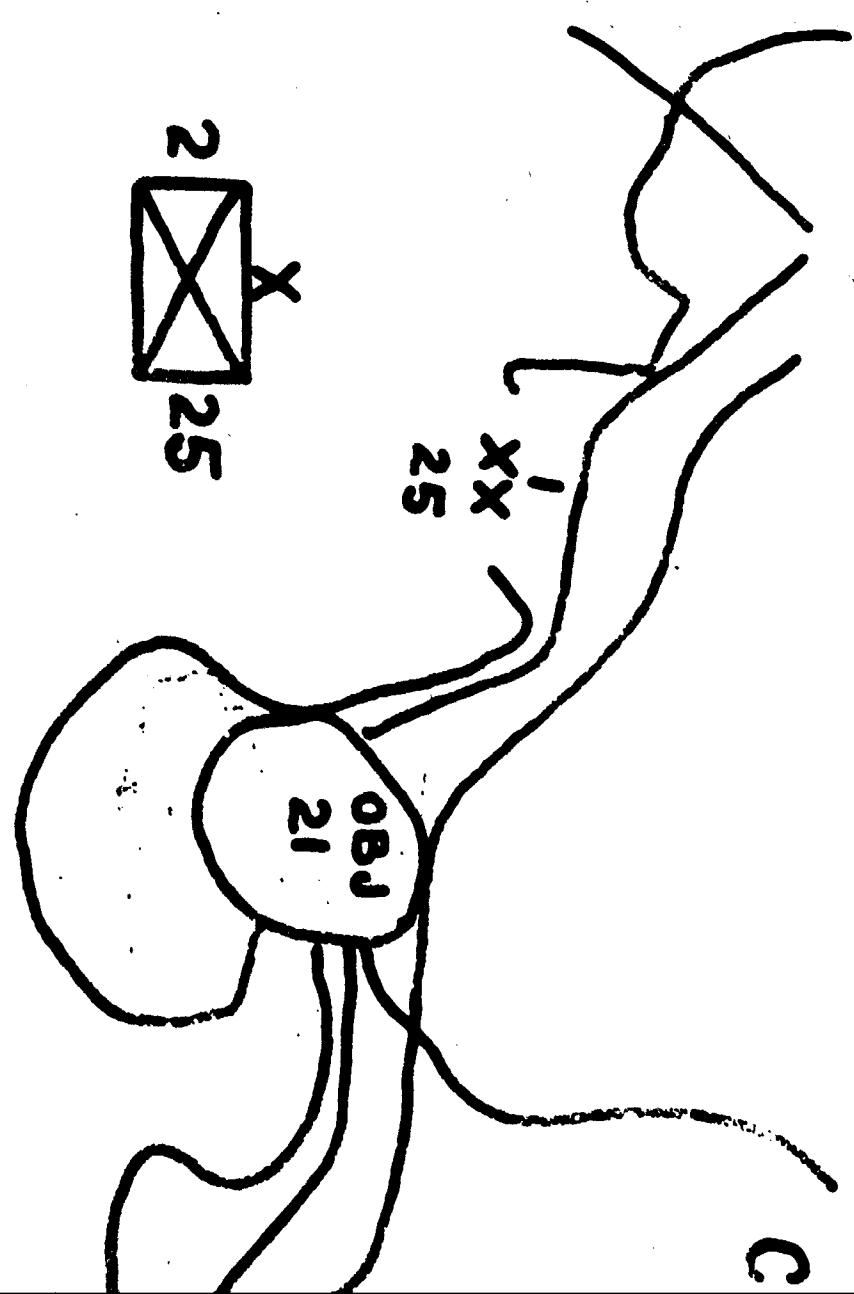


TION REPORT

ANNEX C (OPEN O'LAY) TO FRAG 0 47-66  
SHEET 2 OF 2 SHEETS



ANNEX C (OPN O'LAY) TO FRAG 0 47-66



X X  
XX  
25

2 X 25

ANNEX C (OPN O'LAY) TO FRAG O  
SHEET 2 OF 2 SHEETS

tion Report

CONFIDENTIAL

XX  
25

OBJ  
21

25

13 - 23 MAY -

FRAG O 47-66

1  25

161

IAL

CAMEL

OBJ

8

CAMEL

80



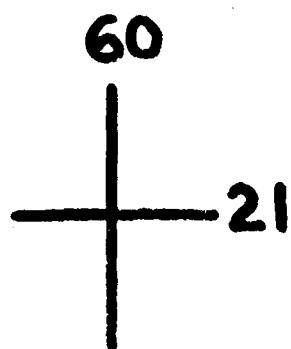
4



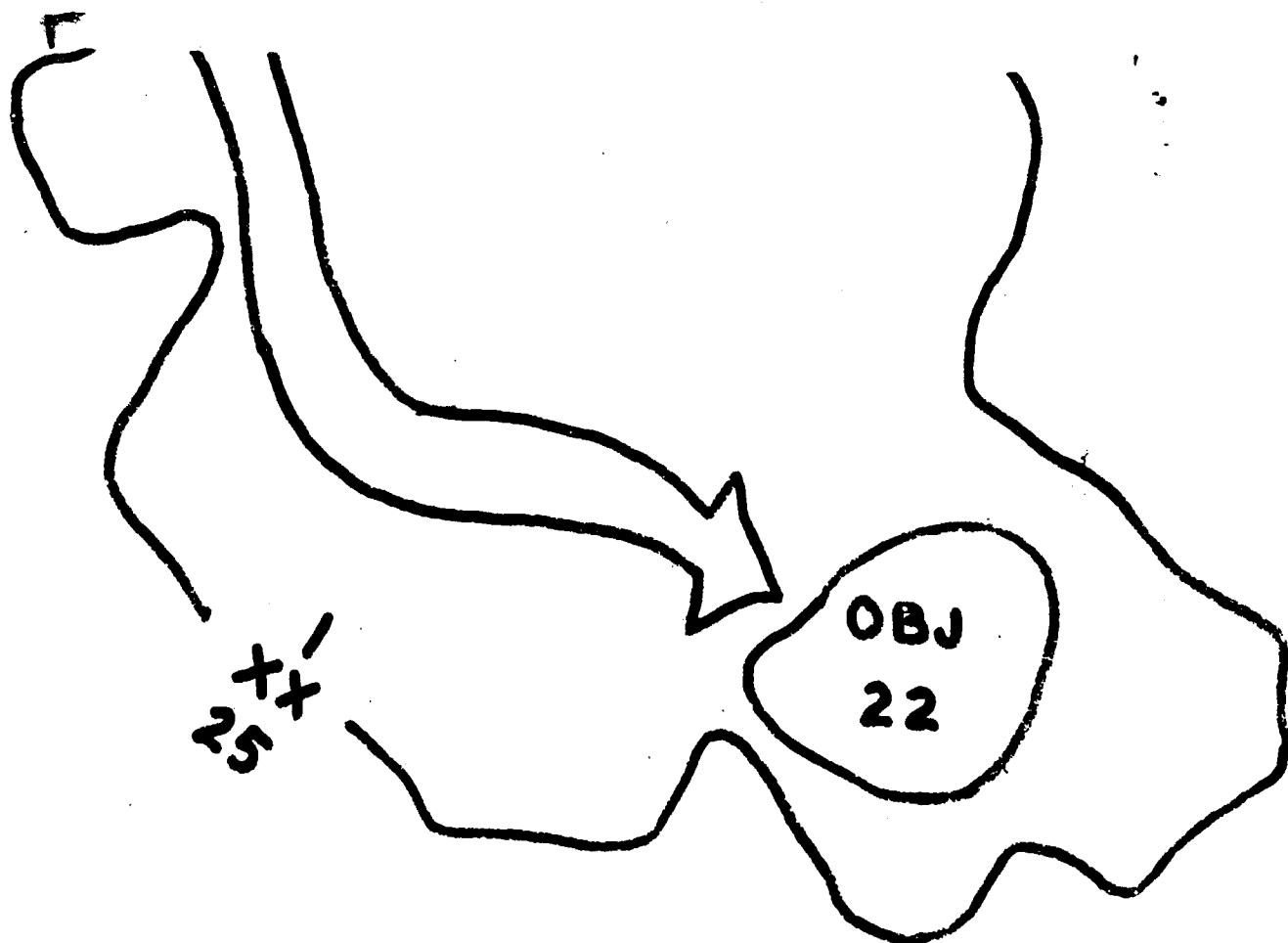
ANNEX C (OPN O'LAY) TO FRAG O  
SHEET 2 OF 2 SHEETS

ANNEX G TO COMBAT OPS AFTER ACTION REPORT  
OPN BIRMINGHAM

FRAG O 4T-66



CONFIDENTIAL



NTIAL

ANNEX A (CONT)

{ ANNEX B (OPN O'LAY) TO OPORD 8-66 (OPN-BIRMINGHAM)

{ REFERENCE: SAME AS BASIC REPORT

CONF 1

SHEET

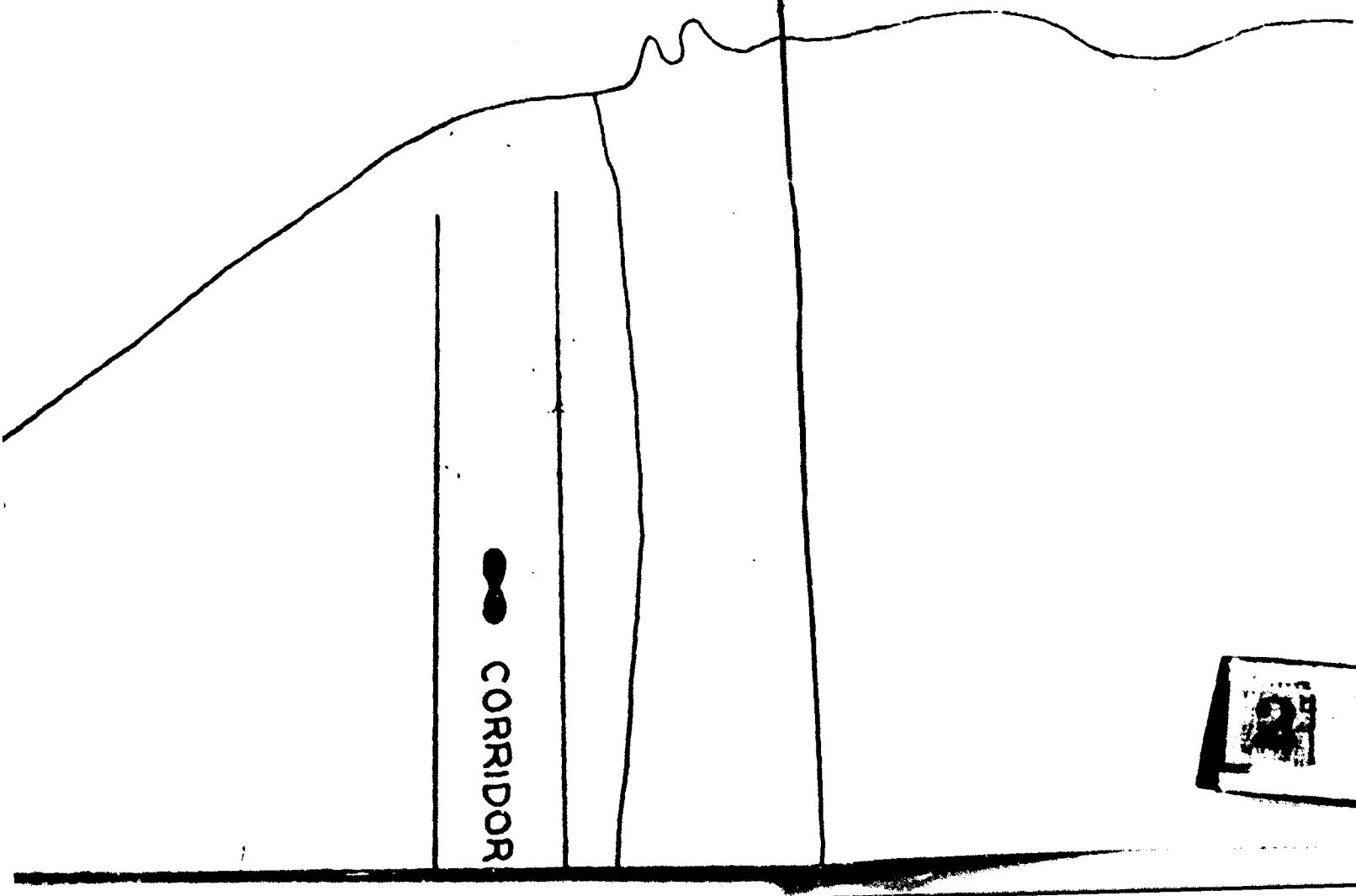
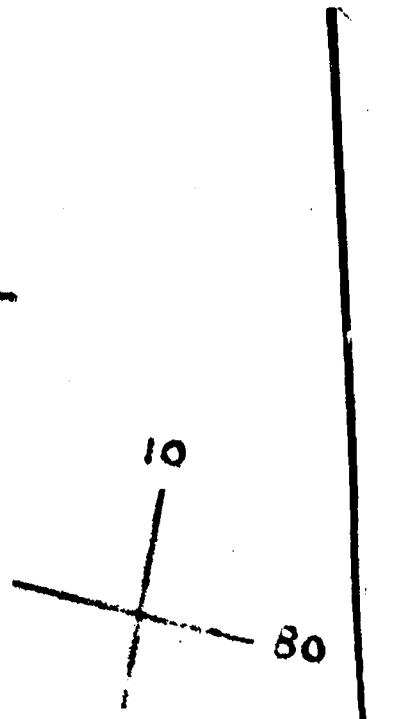
AO ADJUSTED  
231000 APR 66

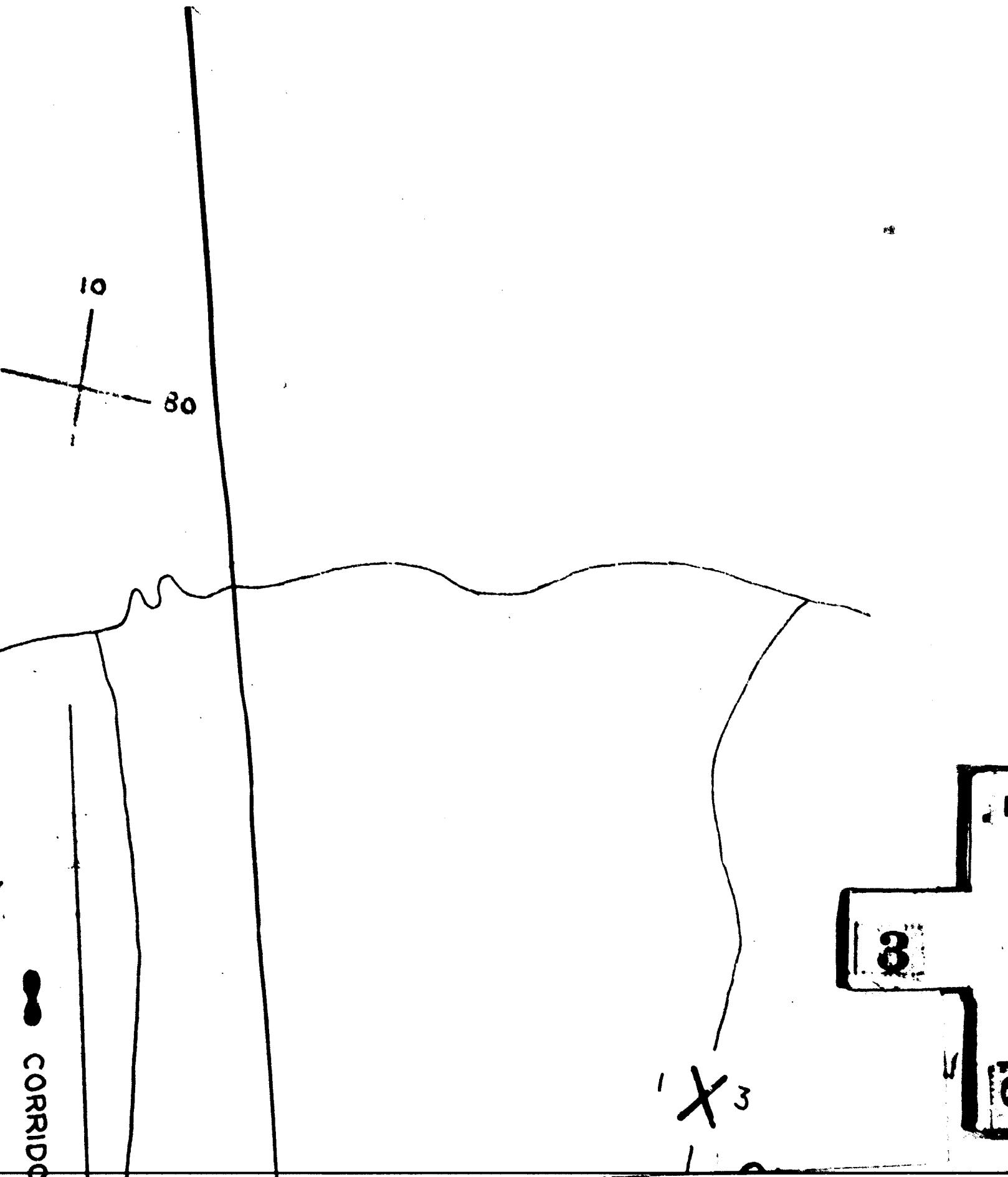
C-1 OPORD 8-66

CONFIDENTIAL

BIRMINGHAM)(U)

SHEET 2 OF 2 SHEETS





BUICK

97

64

CORRIDOR  
4

LZ RED  
LZ WHITE

Obstruction

4

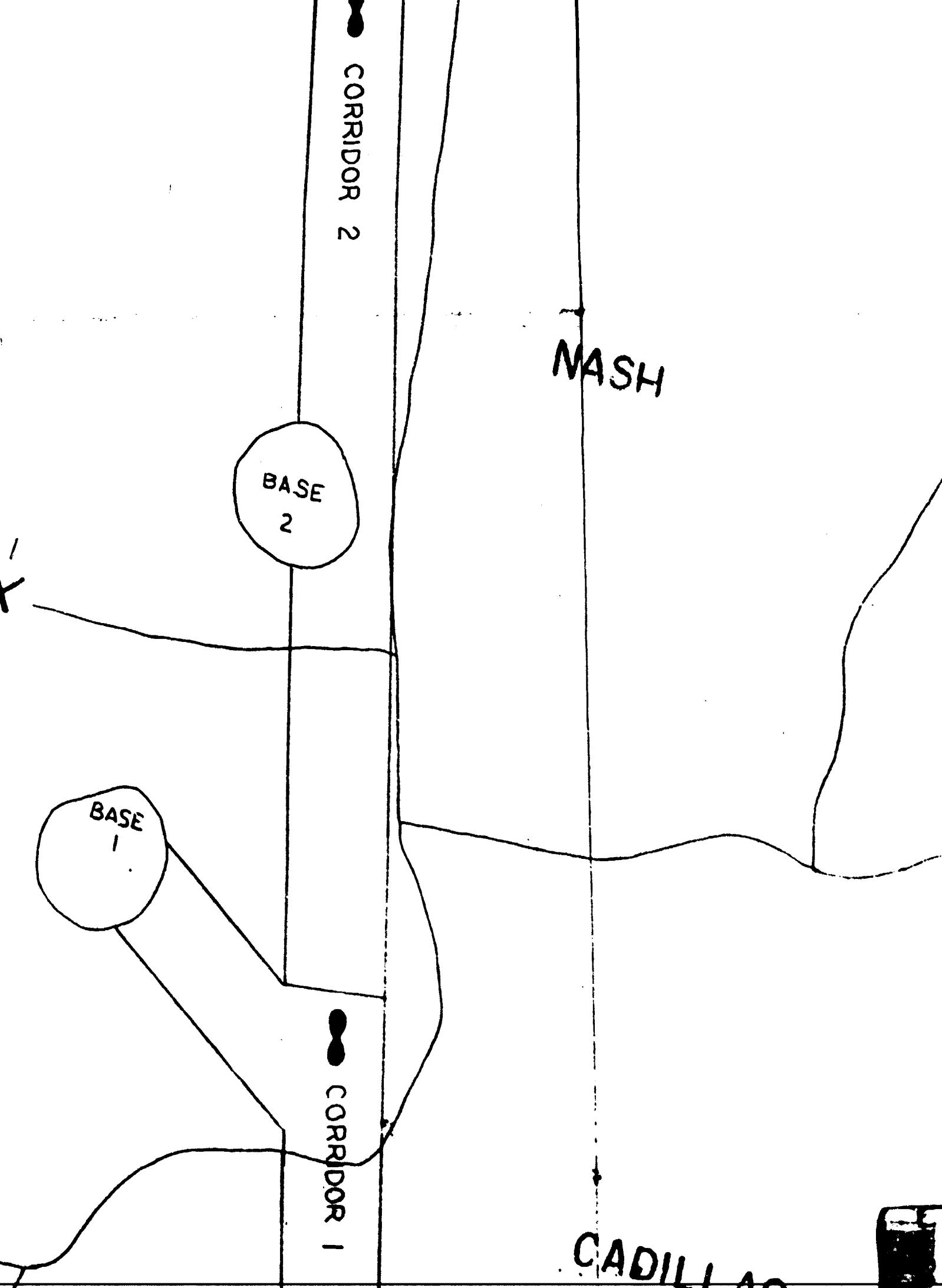
X  
3

FORD

BASE  
3

BASE  
1

Co.



• CORRIDOR 2

SE

•

CORRIDOR 1

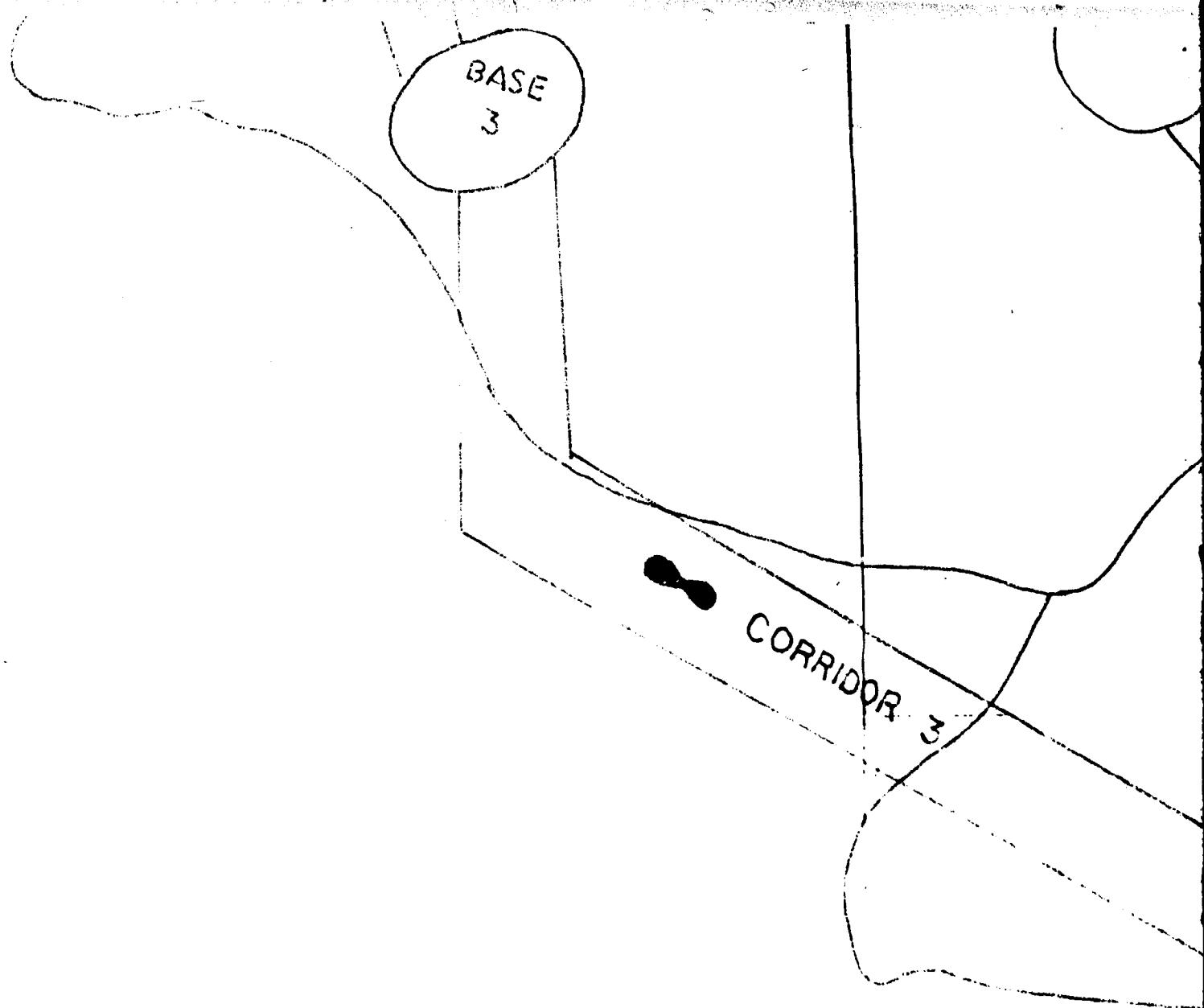
NASH

X<sub>3</sub>

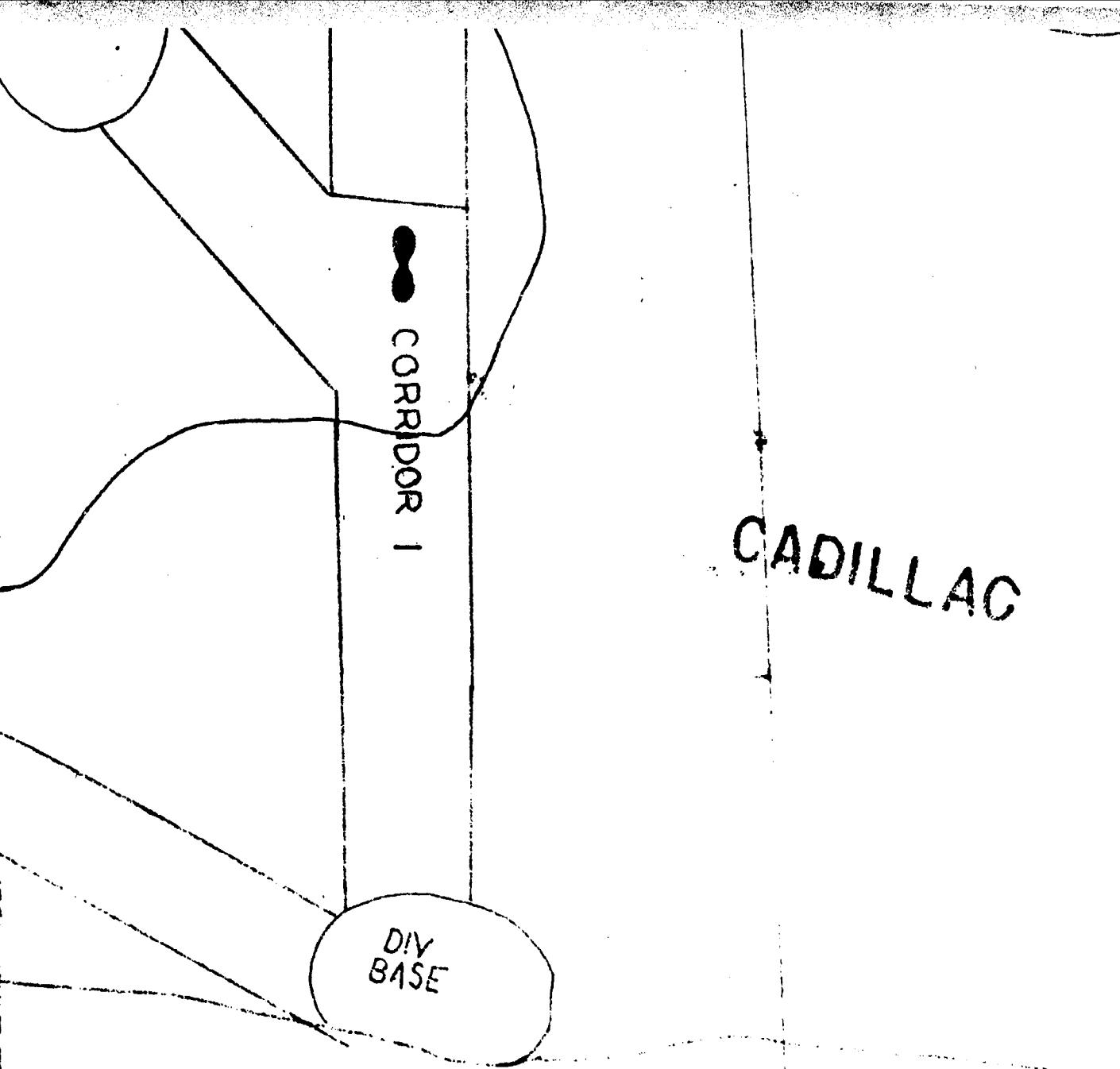
OLDSM

6

CADILLAC



CONF 1



CONFIDENTIAL

•

CORRIDOR 1

CADILLAC

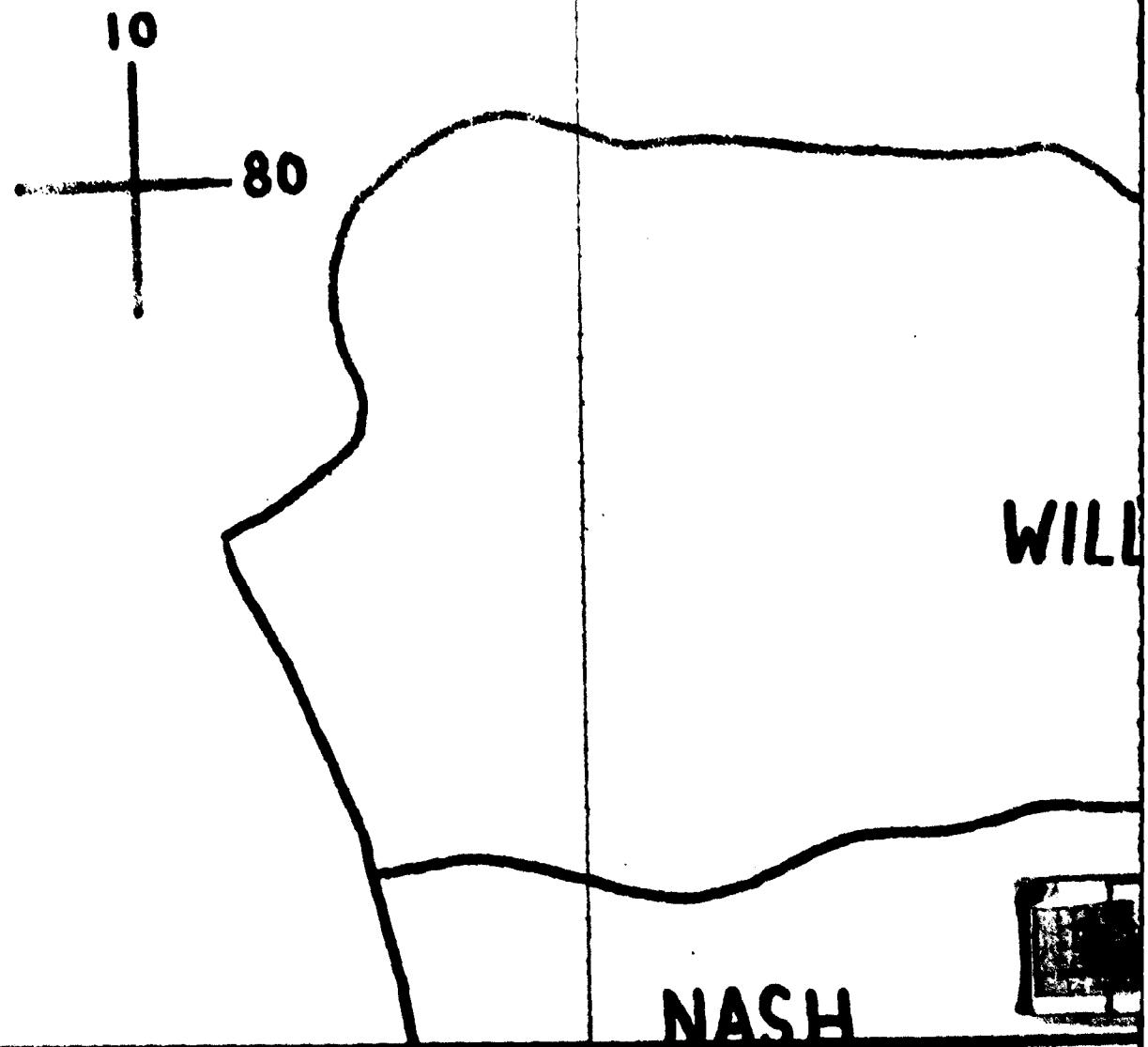
DIY  
BASE

ITIAL

9

CONFIDENTIAL

ANNEX A TO COMBAT OPN AFTER ACTION  
OPN BIRMINGHAM  
C-1 TO OPORD 8-66 ADJUSTED BOUNDARY  
231000 APR 66



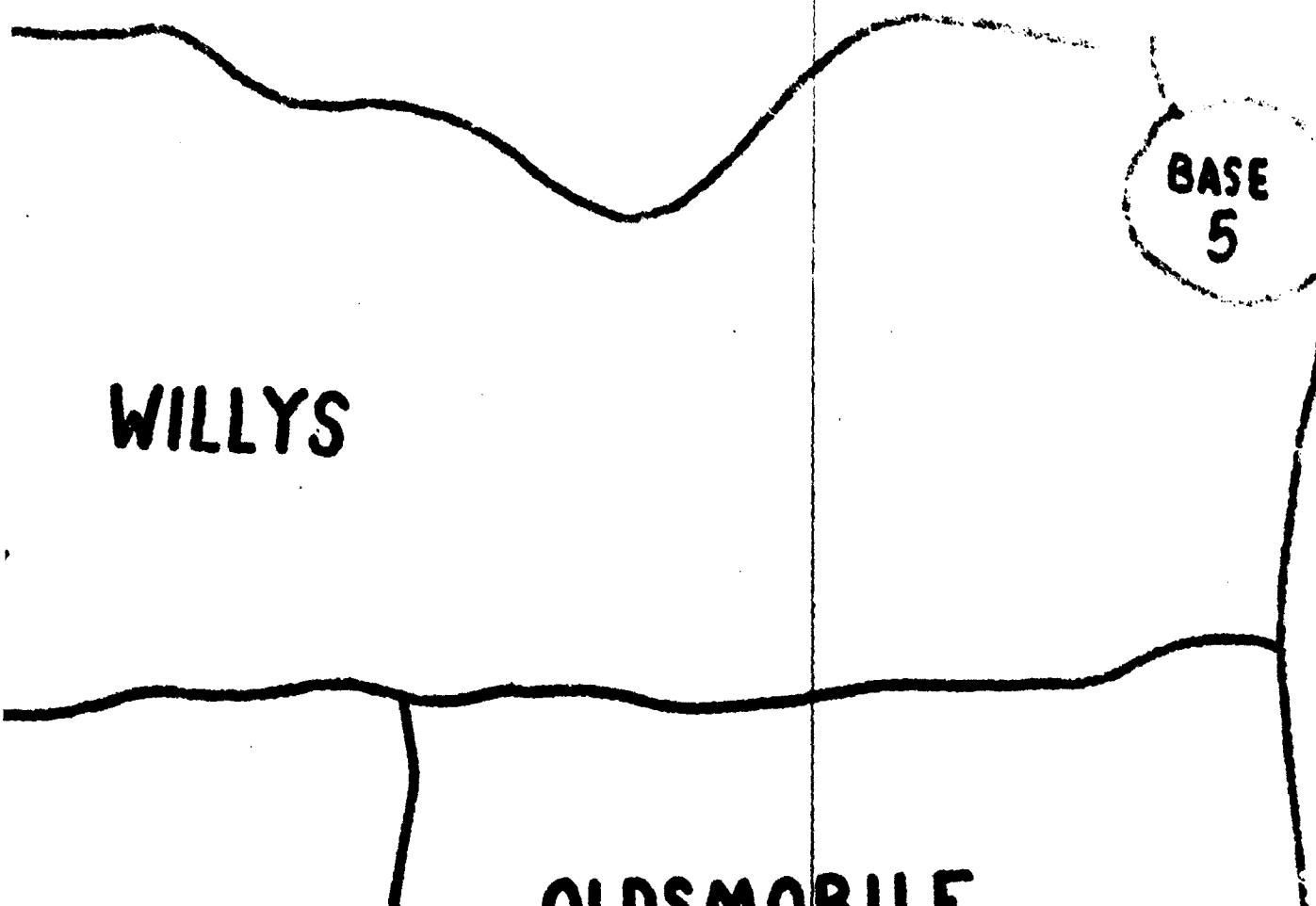
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

45

ACTION REPORT

BOUNDARY



WILLYS

NASH

Spec  
C-1  
4

CONFIDENTIAL

WILLYS

OLDSMOBILE

26

— 66

DENTIAL

7

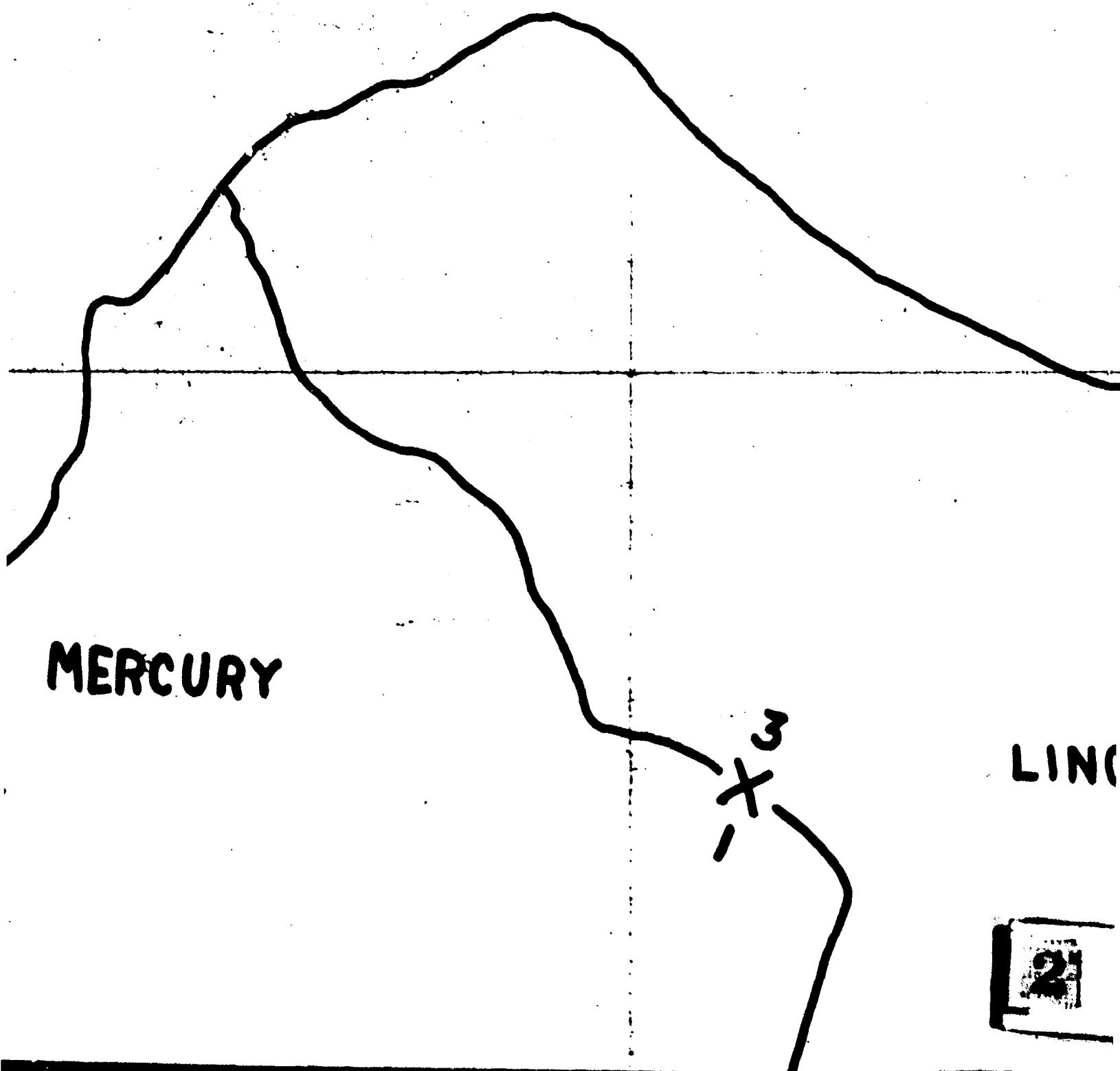
ANNEX A TO COMBAT OP  
OPN BIRMINGHAM  
C-2 TO OPN O'LAY

MERC

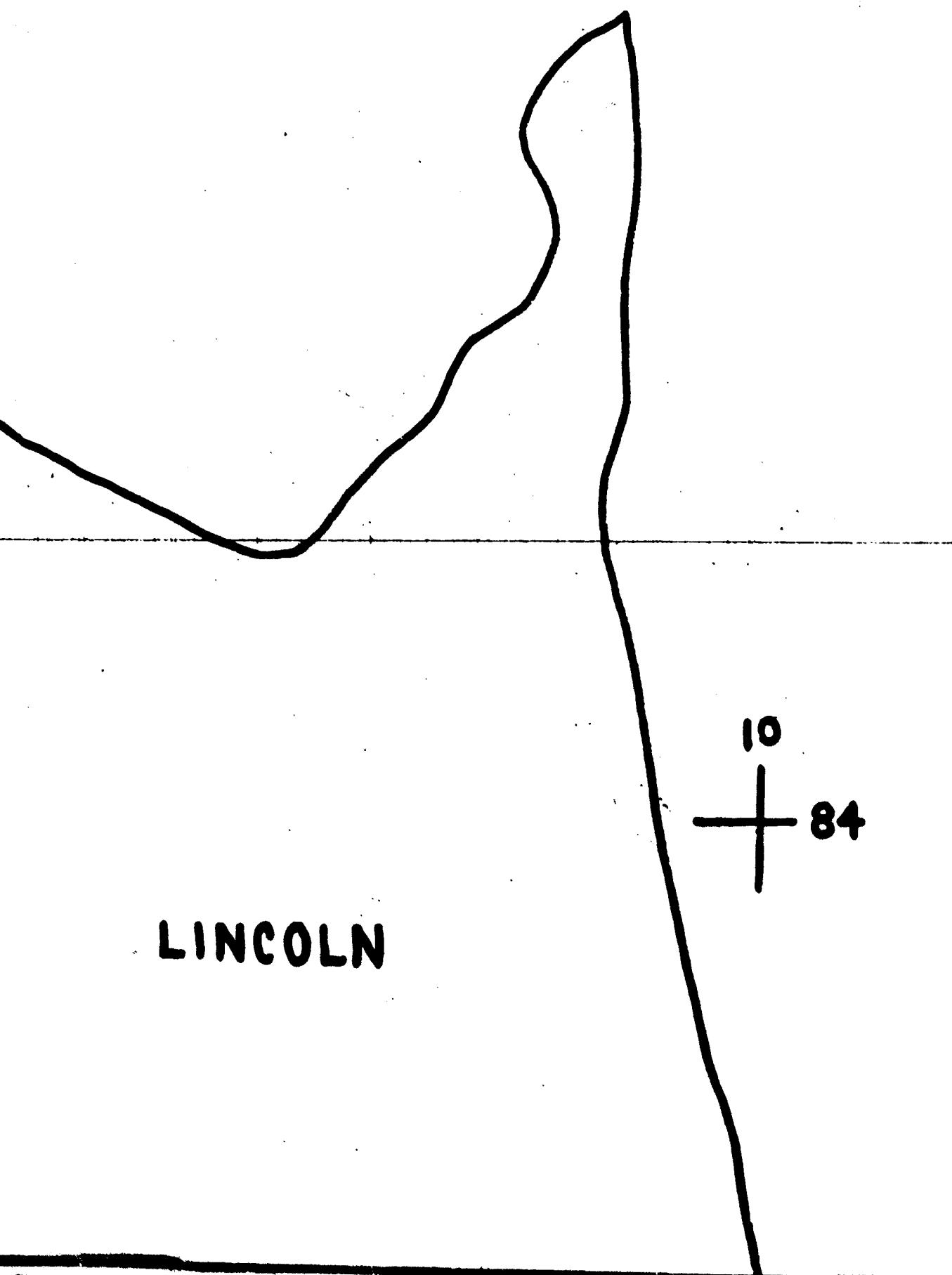
**CONFIDENTIAL**

**AT OPEN AFTER ACTION REPORT**

**AM.  
Y**



DENTIAL



3

MERC

90

75 +



MERCURY

LIN

25  
100

CONFIDENTIAL



10  
+ 84

LINCOLN

FIDENTIAL

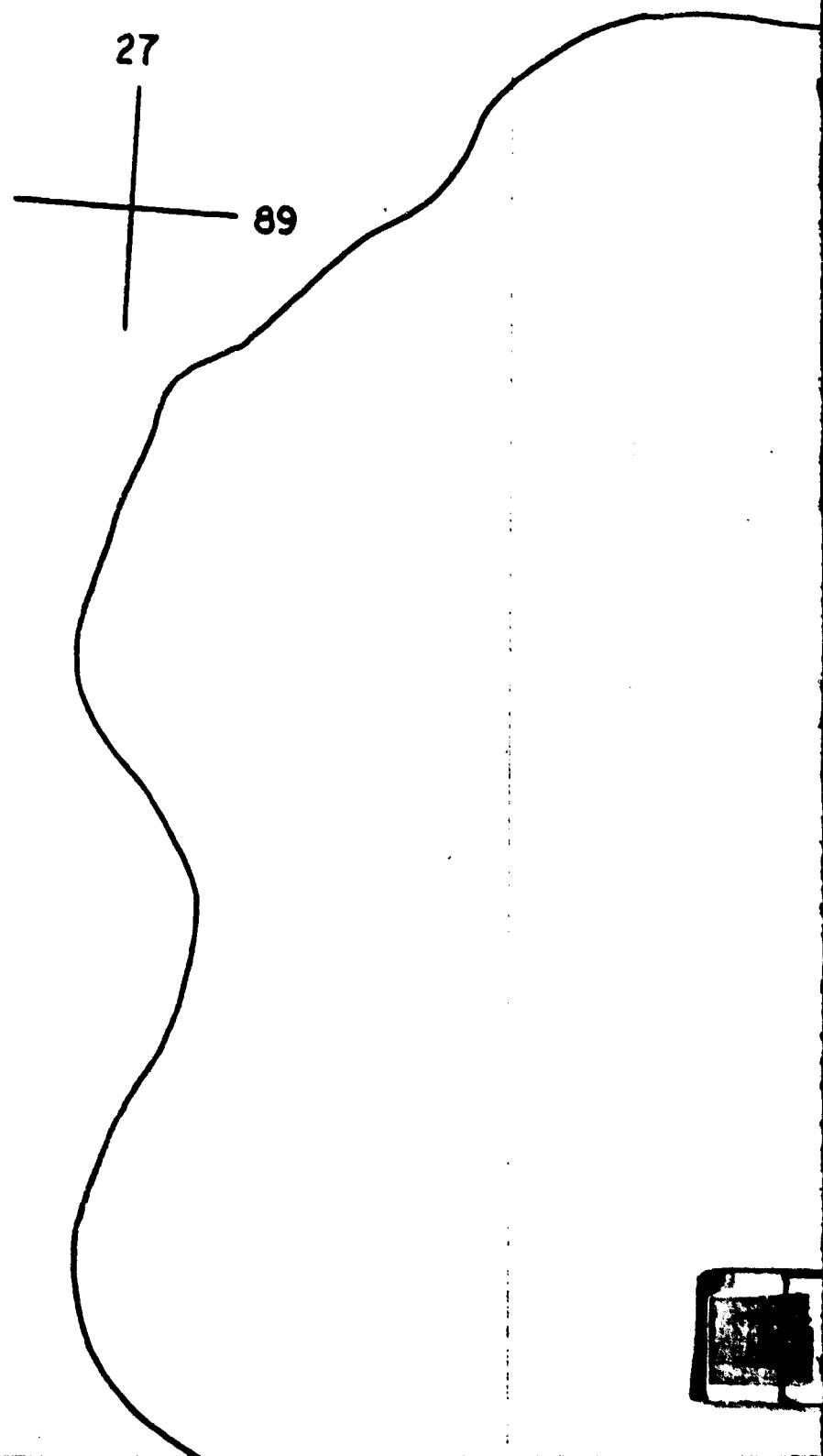


47

ANNEX B

DECEPTION PLAN OPERATIONS OVERLAY

ANNEX B TO COMBAT OPERATION AFTER ACTION  
OPERATION BIRMINGHAM  
DECEPTION PLAN



TER ACTION REPORT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

**DODGE**

X

3

3

PLYMOUTH

CONFIDENTIAL

X  
3

4

OUTH

42

70

CONFIDENTIAL

49

7

---

ANNEX C

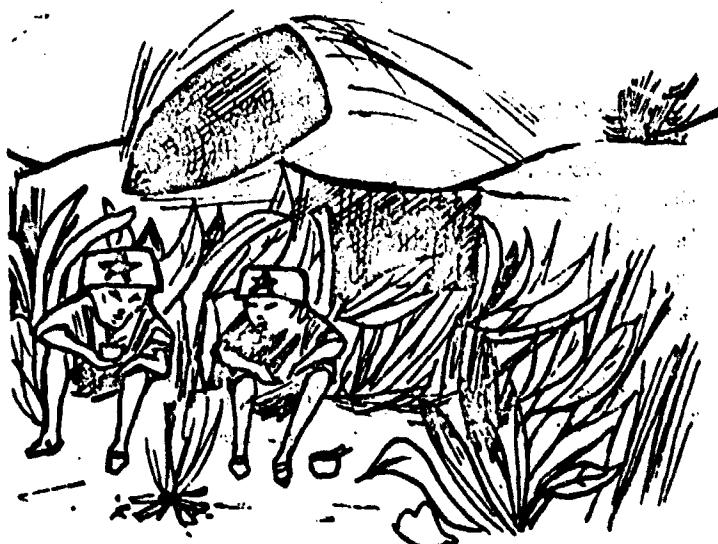
PSYOP'S LEAFLETS

50

TRANSLATION OF LEAFLET #F025.

ATTENTION VOI

THE LONG RANGE OF OUR ARTILLERY CAN REACH YOU ANYWHERE. WHETHER YOU ARE IN THE MOUNTAINS, THE JUNGLES OR THE PADDIES, THERE IS NO ESCAPE. IF YOU TRY TO HIDE IN TUNNELS OR CAVES THEY WILL BECOME YOUR GRAVES WHEN WE COLLAPSE THEM ON YOU. IF YOU REMAIN IN THE OPEN YOU WILL BE TORN TO PIECES. THERE IS NO DEFENSE. WHY DO YOU CONTINUE TO STRUGGLE AGAINST OUR OVERWHELMING POWER? SAVE YOURSELF FROM A HORRIBLE DEATH. RALLY NOW TO SURVIVE AND SEE YOUR FAMILY AGAIN.



51

TRANSLATION OF LEAFLET #VF005 (also used as an LSA by the ARVN)

CADRES, SOLDIERS AND DRAFTEES OF TRAINING CENTER " R"  
ATTENTION FRIENDS,

THIS IS THE VOICE OF THE ARVN AND THE ALLIED FORCES. WE HAVE YOUR  
TRAINING CENTER SURROUNDED.

WE KNOW THAT YOU WERE FORCED TO JOIN THE BLOOD-THIRSTY VIET-CONG AND  
BETRAY YOUR COUNTRY. WE SINCERELY CALL ON YOU, AT THIS OPPORTUNITY, TO TURN  
YOUR WEAPONS AND SHOOT THE V.C. LEADERS IN ORDER TO SURRENDER TO THE OPERATING  
FORCES. DO NOT WAIT ANY LONGER.

DEATH IS WAITING FOR YOU SINCE THE FORCES IN OPERATION AND GIANT AIRPLANE  
WILL STRIKE AND DESTROY THIS TRAINING CENTER. IT IS UP TO YOU TO CHOOSE EITHER  
DEATH? LIFE? IF YOU DO NOT CHOOSE NOW, YOU WILL HAVE NO SECOND CHANCE.

LISTEN TO OUR APPEAL TO RETURN. WHEN YOU COME OUT, CARRY THIS LEAFLET  
AND REPORT TO ANY OPERATION FORCES NEAREST TO YOU. YOU WILL BE WARMLY  
WELCOMED BY ARVN AND ALLIED FORCES AND BE TAKEN TO A SAFE AREA AND SEE YOUR  
FAMILY AGAIN.



52  
TRANSLATION OF LEAFLET VFO03

WHY DID HAVE TO LEAVE YOUR VILLAGES AND LIVE WITH HARDSHIPS IN DARK JUNGLES WITH NO FOOD, NO CLOTHES, NO MEDICINES WHEN YOU GET SICK? WHO HAS DECEIVED, LURED YOU TO LIVE A MISERABLE LIFE? WHO MAKES YOU DIG HOLES ON ROADS AND PLANT MINES TO KILL YOUR OWN COUNTRYMEN? WHO TOLD YOU TO USE VIOLENCE AND FORCE THE PEOPLE TO PAY TAXES?

THEY ARE THE COMMUNIST LEADERS, UNDER THE MASK OF LIBERATION, WHO HAVE DECEIVED YOU.

LOOK AT YOUR FORMER COMRADES, HOW MANY OF THEM ARE STILL WITH YOU? WHERE ARE THEY? WHAT HAPPENS TO THEM? THEY DIED OF BOMBS AND BULLETS, SICKNESS OR RETURNED TO THE JUST CAUSE AND ARE LIVING HAPPILY WITH THEIR FAMILIES.

THE RVNAF IS WILLING TO WELCOME YOU.

31ST C.T.A. HQS.



53

TRANSLATION OF LEAFLET #VF004

CADRES, SOLDIERS AND MEMBERS IN VC RANKS.

WHY ARE THE ARVN ABLE TO CONDUCT OPERATIONS DEEP INTO YOUR HIDEOUTS? IT IS DUE TO:

-INFORMATION PROVIDED BY OUR AGENTS PLANTED IN YOUR UNITS.

-INFORMATION GIVEN BY THE PEOPLE TO THE GOVERNMENT.

WE KNOW WHERE YOU ARE.

WE KNOW WHERE YOU WILL BE GOING.

FACING THE ATTACKS, AIR STRIKES AND CONSTANT ARTILLERY FIRE OF THE ARVN AND THE ALLIES, WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO YOUR LIFE?

THINK OF YOUR OLD MOTHER, YOUNG WIFE AND CHILDREN WHO ARE WAITING FOR YOU

31ST C.T.A. HQS.



54

TRANSLATION OF LEAFLET #F020

FRONT: (Caption) "SOMEONE IS MISSING AT HOME----YOU"

BACK: (Text)

MEMBERS OF THE VIET CONG!

WHEN DID YOU SEE YOUR FAMILY LAST? WHY DO THE VC SEPERATE YOU FROM THOSE YOU LOVE? DO YOU HAVE ANY CHILDREN? IF SO, HOW CAN YOUR CHILDREN TRUELY MATURE WITHOUT THE FATHER AND HEAD OF THE FAMILY PRESENT? UNDER WHAT CONDITION OF POVERTY AND HUNGER IS YOUR FAMILY POSSIBLY LIVING? SINCE THE VC VERY SELIX NOTIFY THE FAMILY OF A DEATH, DOES YOUR FAMILY REALLY KNOW THAT YOU ARE ALIVE?

USE THE NATIONAL SAFE CONDUCT PASS AND RALLY TO THE JUST CAUSE. THE RVN WILL GIVE YOU A LIFE OF PEACEFUL LIVING WITH YOUR FAMILY.



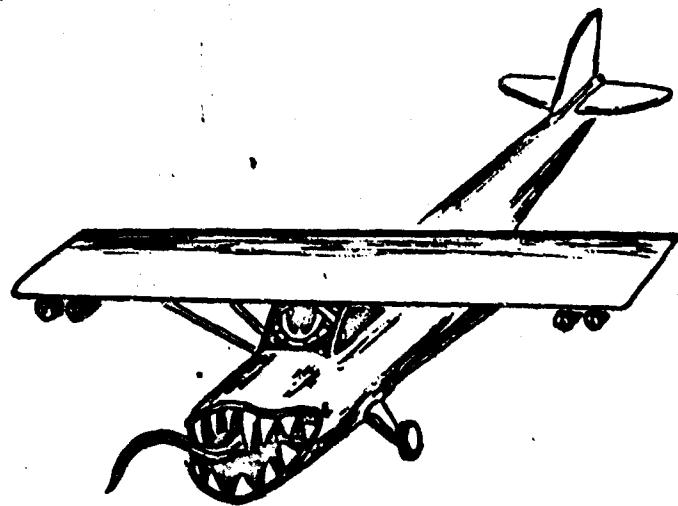
GIA ĐÌNH ĐANG THIẾU MỘT NGƯỜI---CÁC BẠN!!

55

TRANSLATION OF LEAFLET #026.

ATTENTION VC!

THE EYES OF THE 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION ARE EVERYWHERE. THEY'RE NOT ONLY IN THE VILLAGES AND JUNGLES, BUT ALSO IN THE SKY ABOVE YOU. THE RECONNAISSANCE PLANES OF THE 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION CAN STRIKE SILENTLY ANYTIME, ANYWHERE. ONCE THEY SPOT YOU THEY CAN CALL IN MASSIVE ARTILLERY POWER AND DEADLY AIR-STRIKES ON YOUR POSITIONS. THEY FORCE YOU TO LIVE LIKE ANIMALS, ALWAYS HIDING, AFRAID TO LIGHT COOKING FIRES FOR FEAR OF GIVING AWAY YOUR POSITIONS. WHY DO YOU CONTINUE SUCH A MISERABLE LIFE FOR A WRONG CAUSE? RALLY NOW TO THE GVN AND BEGIN A NEW LIFE OF DIGNITY AND HONOR.



56 7  
TRANSLATION OF LEAFLET #VF007

FRONT: (Caption) "DO YOU WANT TO HELP THE VC PROLONG THE WAR IN YOUR HOMELAND?"

BACK: (Text)

PEOPLE OF THAN DINH,

THE VC HAVE DUPED THE PEOPLE TOO LONG, MAKING THEM BUY WORTHLESS "PUBLIC TREASURE" COUPONS IN EXCHANGE FOR "PROTECTION". PROTECTION FROM WHAT? PROTECTION FROM A CHANCE TO BUILD A BETTER LIFE WHILE THE VC EXPLOIT YOU BY TAKING YOUR RICE AND MAKE YOU PAY ILLEGAL TAXES? THESE DAYS OF EXPLOITATION BY THE VC ARE NUMBERED. AREAS WHICH THE VC HAVE CONSIDERED AS HAVENS ARE RECEIVING UP TO 400 ROUNDS OF ARTILLERY PLUS AIR STRIKES EVERY DAY. GVN FORCES ARE MOVING FURTHER AND FURTHER INTO VC AREAS EVERY DAY. NO EFFORT WILL BE SPARED TO DESTROY THE VC AND THEIR HIDING PLACES.

HOWEVER, WE HAVE NO WISH TO HARM INNOCENT CIVILIANS. TOO OFTEN THE VC USE THE PEOPLE AS HUMAN SHIELDS. TO PROTECT YOURSELVES AND YOUR FAMILIES, MOVE TO A GVN CONTROLLED AREA. THE GOVERNMENT WILL GIVE YOU LAND AND MONEY TO HELP YOU START A NEW LIFE OR PROVIDE YOU WITH HELP UNTIL IT IS SAFE TO MOVE BACK TO YOUR OWN AREA.

RELEASE THE YOKE OF VC OPPRESSION, COME TO THE GVN.



DỒNG BÀO CÓ MUỐN GIÚP VIỆT CỘNG KÉO DÀI CUỘC CHIẾN TRANH TÂN PHÁ QUÊ HƯƠNG KHÔNG?

TRANSLATION OF LEAFLET #FO27

FRONT: (CAPTION) "WHY DO THE VC HAVE TO RESORT TO KIDNAPPING YOUTHS TO FILL THEIR EMPTY RANKS?"

BACK: (TEXT)

YOUR 15- AND 16-YEAR OLD SONS ARE BEING TAKEN AGAINST THEIR WILL AND USED AS CANNON FODDER BY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE CADRE. IN CAM-SON VILLAGE, HAI HAMLET 20 YOUNG YOUTHS WERE FORCED TO LEAVE THEIR FAMILIES BECAUSE NO ONE WHO BELIEVED IN THE VC CAUSE WOULD VOLUNTEER. COULD IT BE THAT NO ONE BELIEVED? SOME OF THESE CAM-SON CHILDREN TRIED TO RETURN TO THEIR FAMILIES AND WERE SHOT IN COLD BLOOD BY THE VC. HO-VAN-NIEN, WHO WAS TAKEN FROM HAI HAMLET BY THE VC, IS NOW WELL FED, RECEIVING GOOD MEDICAL ATTENTION AND LIVING IN SAFETY WITH THE GVN DISTRICT AUTHORITIES IN DAU-TIENG.

WHY DO YOU ALLOW YOUR SONS TO BE TAKEN INTO SERVICE BY THE VC AS THEY DID IN CAM-SON? SEND THEM TO GVN CONTROLLED AREAS WHERE THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT FORCE CHILDREN TO FIGHT IN THE PLACE OF MEN. TRAIN YOUR SONS TO LOVE THE PEACE GIVEN BY THE GVN WHEN ALL THIS FIGHTING IS OVER. YOU HAVE SEEN THE POWER OF THE GVN AND ALLIED FORCES AND MUST KNOW THAT THE END FOR THE VC IS NEAR. JOIN THE OTHER PEOPLE OF SOUTH VIETNAM AND DO NOT ALLOW YOUR YOUNG YOUTH TO BE TAKEN BY THE VC.



58

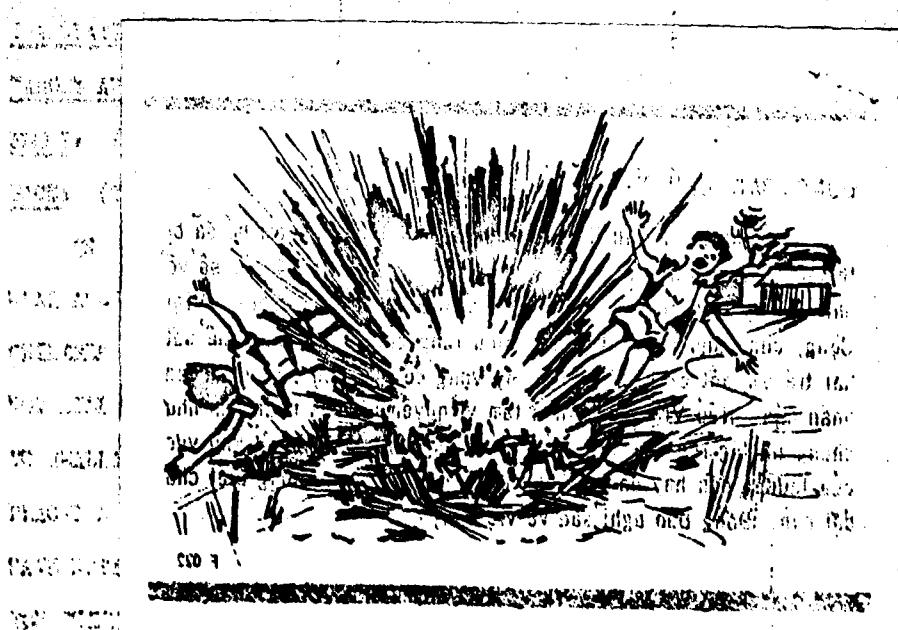
TRANSLATION OF LEAFLET #F022

TARGET AUDIENCE: CIVILIANS

FRONT: (ILLUSTRATION OF CHILDREN BEING BLOWN UP.)

BACK: (TEXT)

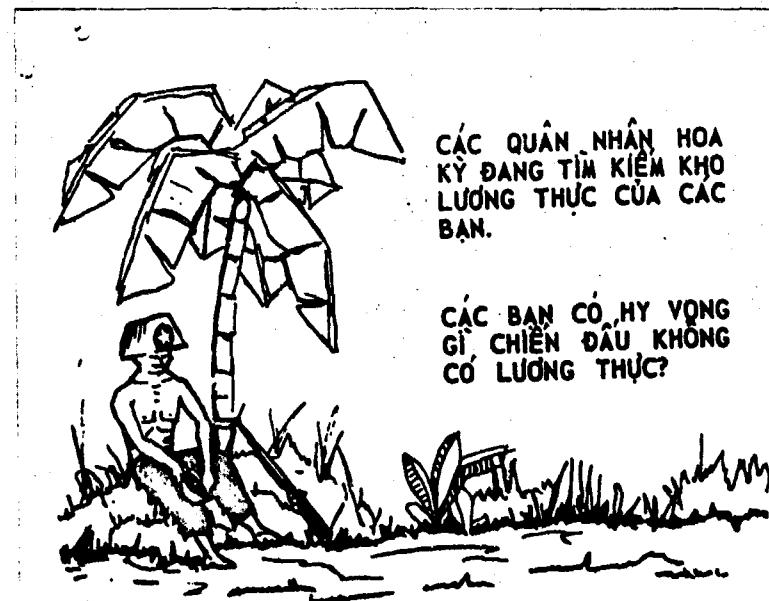
ON SUNDAY, 8 MAY 1966, TWO LITTLE CHILDREN WERE INJURED BY A VC MINE NEAR AN-PHUOC-HOA VILLAGE FOUR KILOMETERS EAST OF TAY-NINH, AN AREA WHERE CHILDREN ARE KNOWN TO PLAY. THE VC MUST KNOW, AS WELL AS WE, THAT YOU CANNOT KILL INNOCENT CHILDREN MALICIOUSLY AND HOPE TO WIN THE PEOPLE. IF THE VC REALLY CARED FOR THE PEOPLE'S WELFARE, AS THEY SAY, THEY WOULD NOT HAVE PLACED A MINE IN AN AREA WHICH IS OFTEN USED BY CIVILIANS OR THEY WOULD HAVE NOTIFIED THE PEOPLE OF THEIR INTENTION TO PLANT SUCH A MINE. WHAT DO YOU THINK?



59  
0 3  
TRANSLATION OF LEAFLET #FO03

ATTENTION VIET CONG!

YOUR CADRE CONSTANTLY TELL YOU THAT VICTORY IS CERTAIN; HOWEVER, YOU CANNOT HOPE TO CONTINUE FIGHTING IF YOU HAVE NOTHING TO EAT. ON 25 APRIL 1966, SOLDIERS OF THE 3RD BRIGADE, 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION, CAPTURED VAST RICE STORES NEAR PHUM BO NUONG, TAY NINH PROVINCE. THIS POWERFUL ALLIED FORCE WILL CONTINUE TO SEARCH FOR AND DESTROY YOU AND YOUR STOLEN FOOD CACHES. YOUR SACRIFICES IN FIGHTING FOR A LOST CAUSE WILL ONLY RESULT IN DEATH BY STARVATION OR, IF YOU ARE LUCKY, BY RAPID DEATH AGAINST THE 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION'S MASSIVE FIREPOWER. WHY DIE USELESSLY? SAVE YOURSELF BY USING THE NATIONAL SAFE CONDUCT PASS AND RALLYING TO THE NEAREST GVN OFFICIAL OR TO ANY ARVN OR ALLIED SOLDIER. THE GVN GUARANTEES YOU HUMANE TREATMENT AND COMPLETE FORGIVENESS . RALLY NOW!



TRANSLATION OF LEAFLET 1007

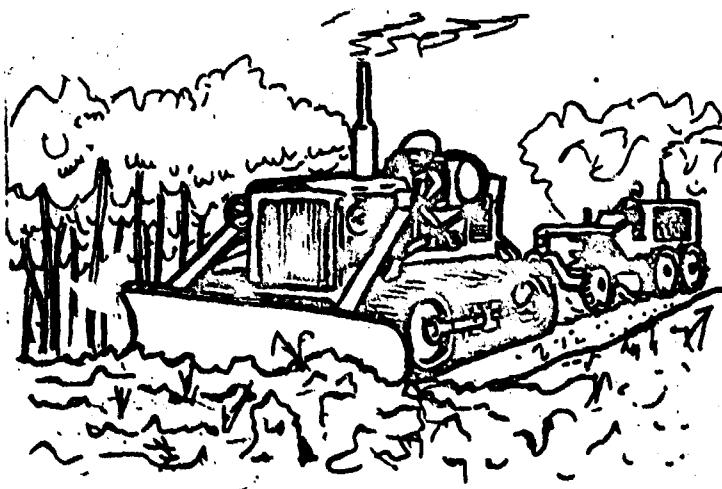
FRONT: (Caption) "THE ALLIED FORCES WORK FOR THE PEOPLE'S WELFARE"

BACK: (Text)

THE 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION ASSISTS THE GVN IN MANY WAYS. IN ADDITION TO ACTUALLY FIGHTING THE VC, THE SOLDIERS OF THE 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION AID IN MANY CIVIC ACTION PROJECTS IN SUCH FIELDS AS SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION AND MEDICAL HELP. ONE OF THE PROJECTS THEY ARE CURRENTLY WORKING ON IN THE TAY-NINH AREA IS ROAD IMPROVEMENT.

ENGINEERS OF THE 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION HAVE IMPROVED THESE ROADS TO EASE TRANSPORTATION IN THE AREA AND TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR FARMERS TO GET THEIR PRODUCE TO MARKET.

IN VC CONTROLLED AREAS THE PEOPLE GET FALSE PROMISE AND TERRORISM WHILE IN GVN AREAS THE GOVERNMENT IS CONSTANTLY BUILDING TOWARD A BETTER LIFE FOR THE PEOPLE.



QUÂN ĐỘI ĐỒNG MINH PHỤC VỤ VÌ LỢI ÍCH CỦA NHÂN DÂN.

61

ANNEX D

OPERATIONS OVERLAY FRAG ORDER 44-66

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Annex D to Combat Operation Alvor  
Action Report Operation BIRMINGHAM

ANNEX A (OPN O'LAY)  
TO FRAG O 44-65

—  
—  
—  
—

AUSTIN

## ASSEMBLY

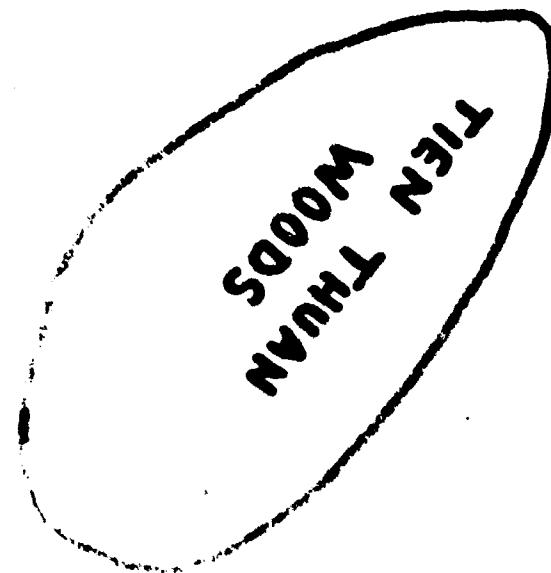
PARTY  
MASS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

**APPENDIX E**

OPERATIONS OVERLAY FRAG ORDER 45-66

ANNEX E TO COMBAT OPN AFTER  
OPN BIRMINGHAM



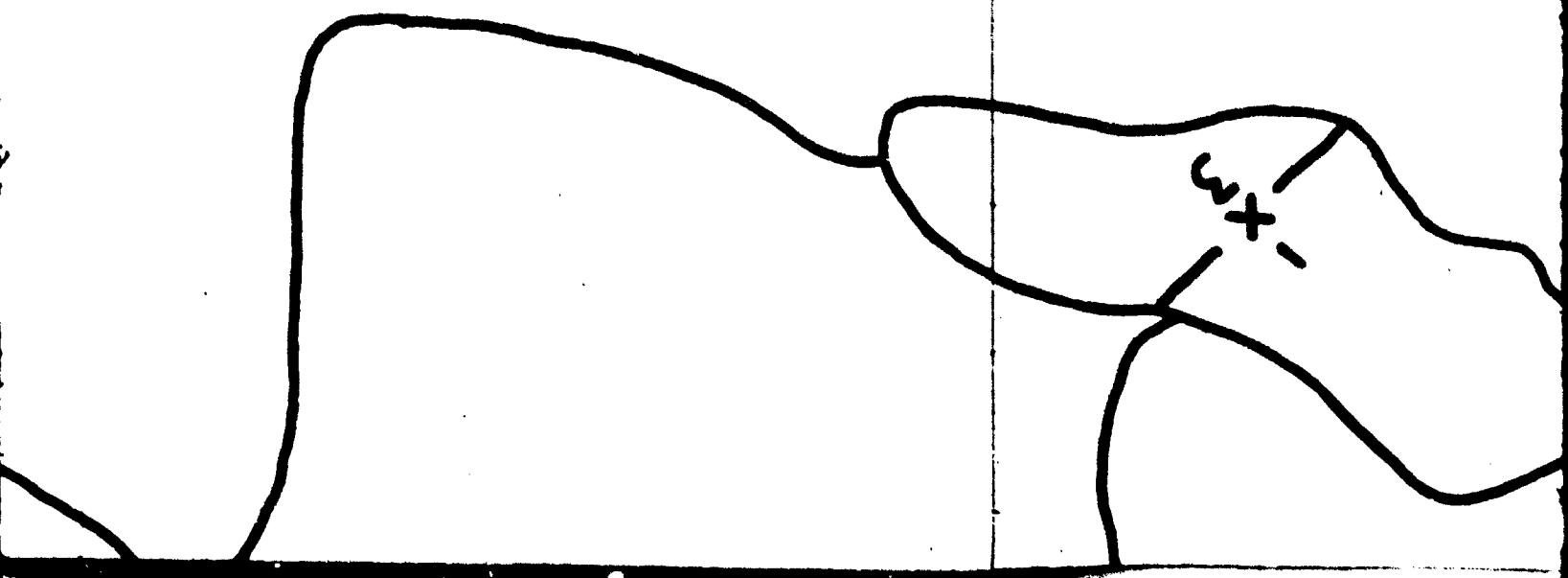
CO 1



# AFTER Action REPORT

40  
+  
29

21



ON REPORT

25

3

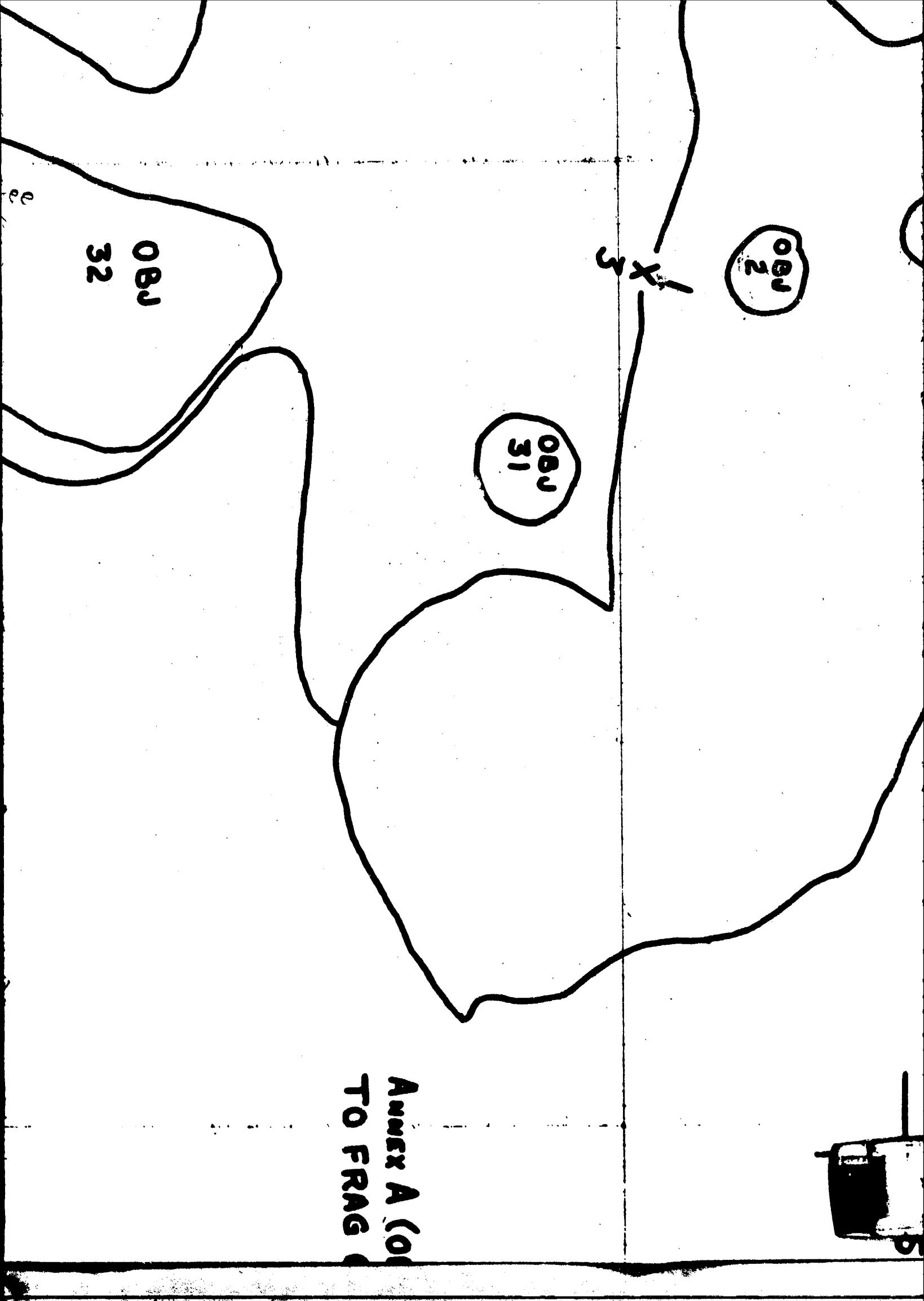
$\omega^{+-}$

CONT

CONFIDENTIAL

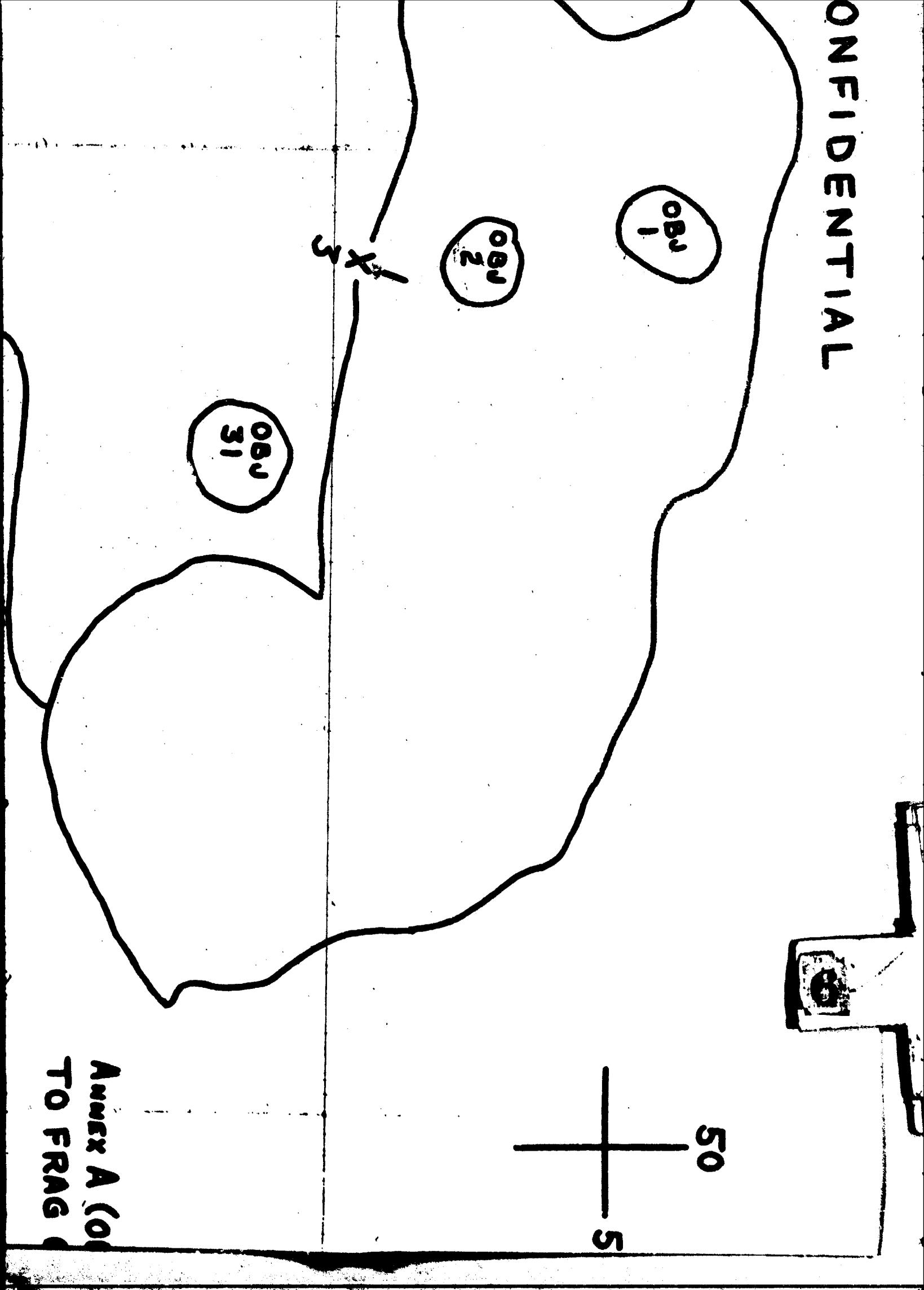
42-ee

32  
OBJ



Annex A (01)  
TO FRAG

CONFIDENTIAL



Annex A (0)  
TO FRAG



— 50 —

ANNEX A (OPN O'LAV)  
TO FRAG O 45-66

Annex A (OPN O'LAY)  
TO FRAG O 45-66

50  
50

19

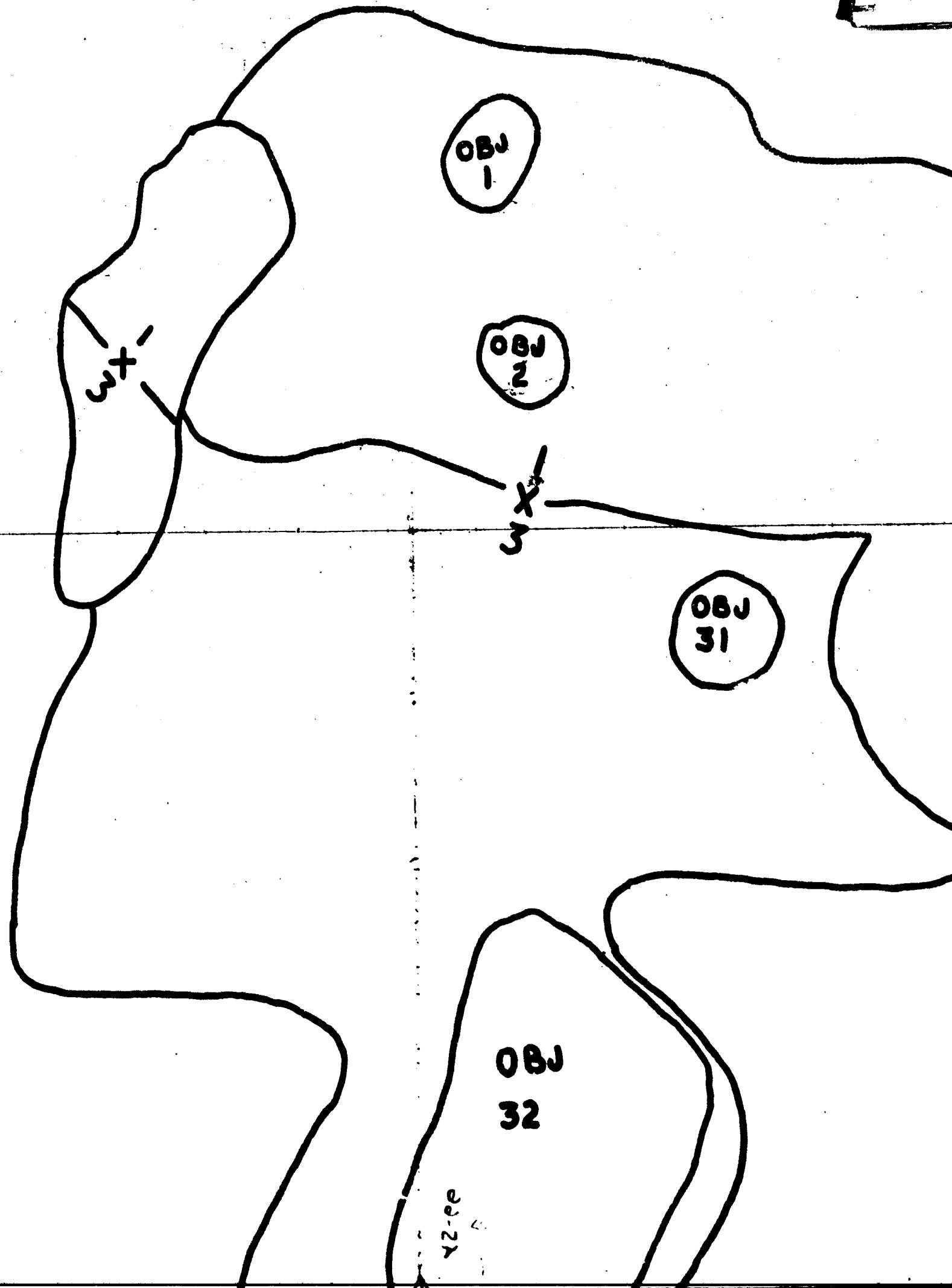
Open AFTER Action REPORT

40 + 25



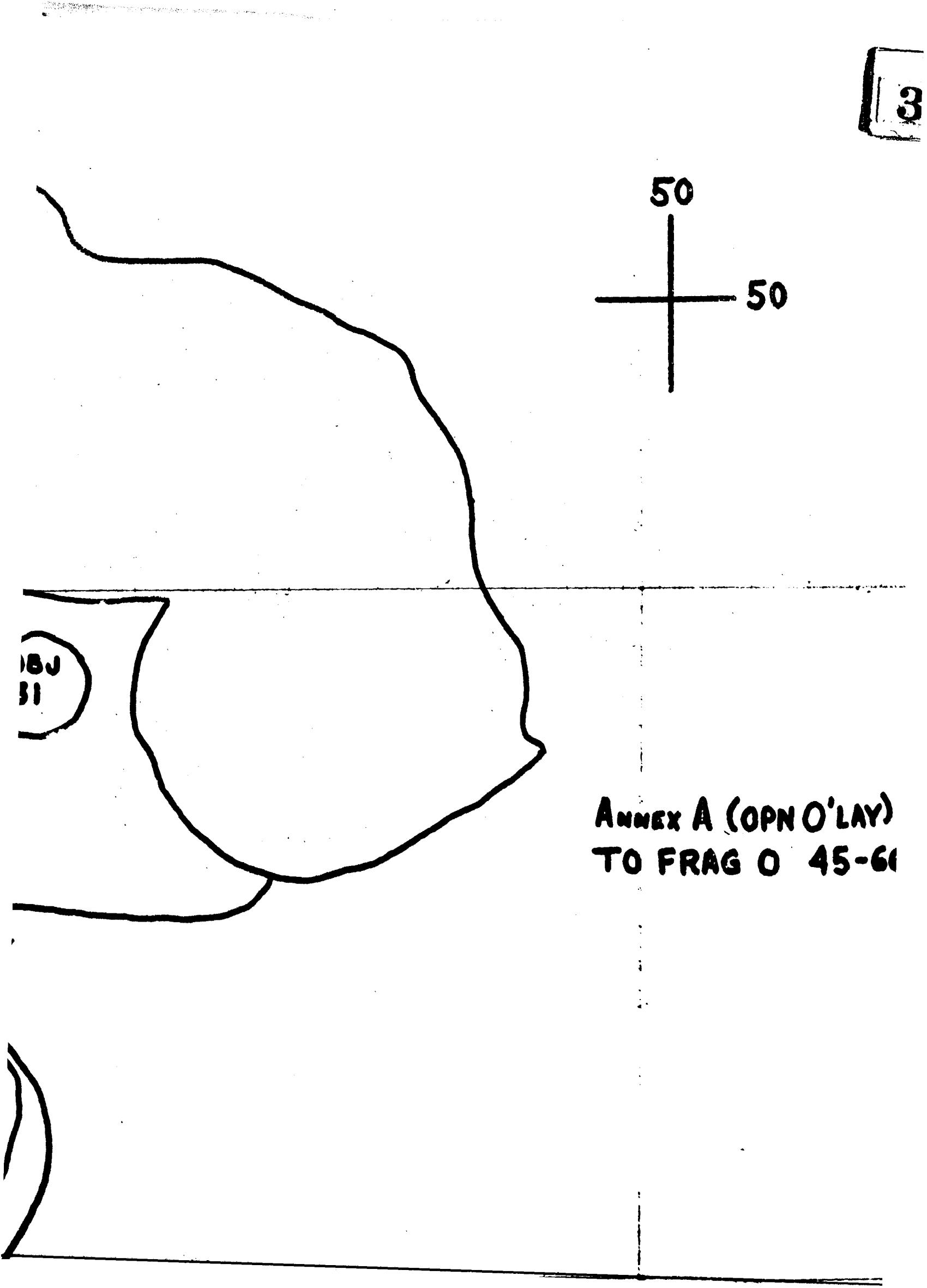
CONFIDENTIAL

21



50

50



ANNEX A (OPN O'LAY)  
TO FRAG O 45-61

50

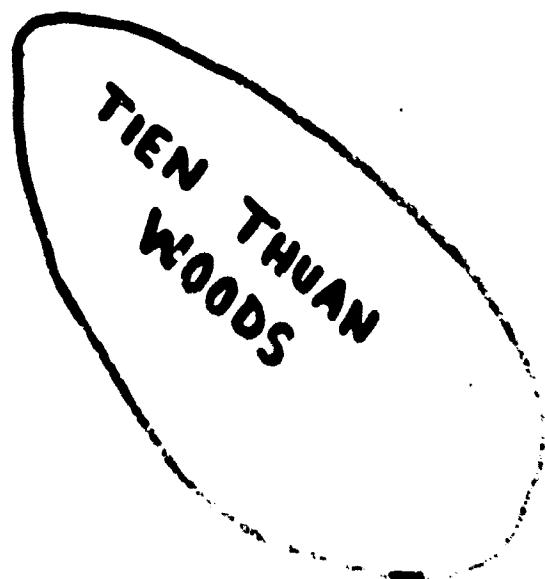
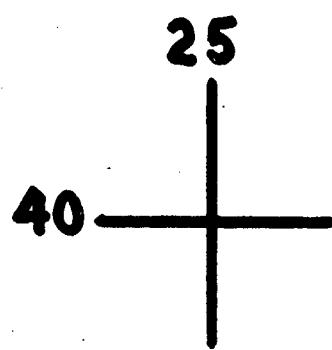
50

4

ANNEX A (OPN O'LAY)  
TO FRAG O 45-66

**ANNEX E To COMBAT OPEN AFTER Action Report  
OPEN BIRMINGHAM**

40      25



OBJ  
32

42-ee

CONFIDENTIAL



ANNEX A (OPN O'LAY)  
TO FRAG O 45-66

65

7

ANNEX F

OPERATIONS OVERLAY FRAG ORDER 46-66

CONFIDENTIAL

ANNEX F To COMBAT OPN AFTER ACTION REPORT  
OPN BIRMINGHAM



FOXTROT  
28



FCL

TF MILLOY

OBJ  
21

BAS  
7

OBJ

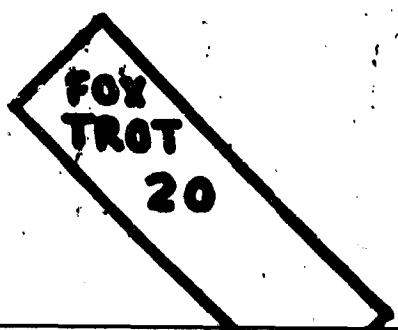
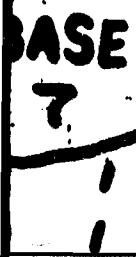
TIAL

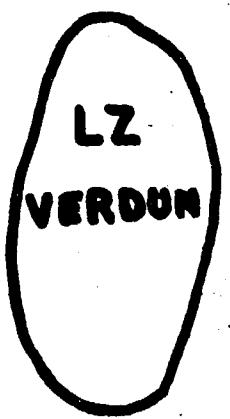
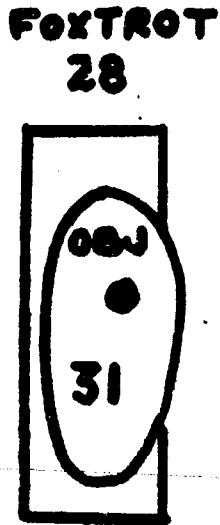
PORT



TF HOLLINGSWORTH

FCL





FCL

TF MILLOY

4P-00  
K

ANNEX A (OPN O'LAY)  
TO FRAG O 46-66

TF HOLLINGSWORTH

LZ  
VERDUN

FCL

OBJ  
21

BASE  
7

OBJ  
22

BASE  
5

FOX  
TROT  
20

DODGE

30

80

FOX  
TROT  
24

4

TF HOLLINGSWORTH

FCL

FOX  
TROT  
20

DODGE

FOX  
TROT  
24

BASE  
5

30

80

ANNEX A (OPN O'LAY)  
TO FRAG O 46-66

75 — XT  
20

CONF

BASE  
5

BASE  
4

**CONFIDENTIAL**

67

ANNEX G

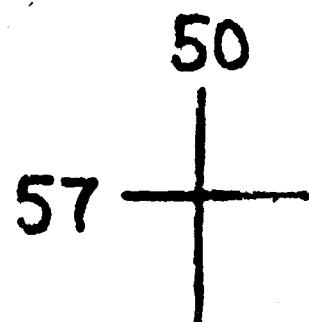
OPERATIONS OVERLAY FRAG ORDER 47-66

9

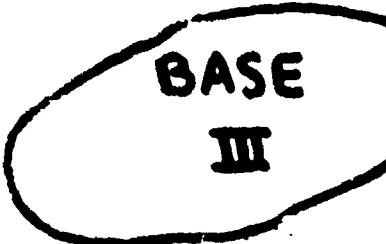
ANNEX G TO COMBAT OPNS AFTER A  
OPN BIRMINGHAM

50

57



BASE  
III



BASE



TER ACTION RRPORT

CONFIDENTIAL

SHEET 1 OF 2 SHEETS

VICEROY

66  
+ 48

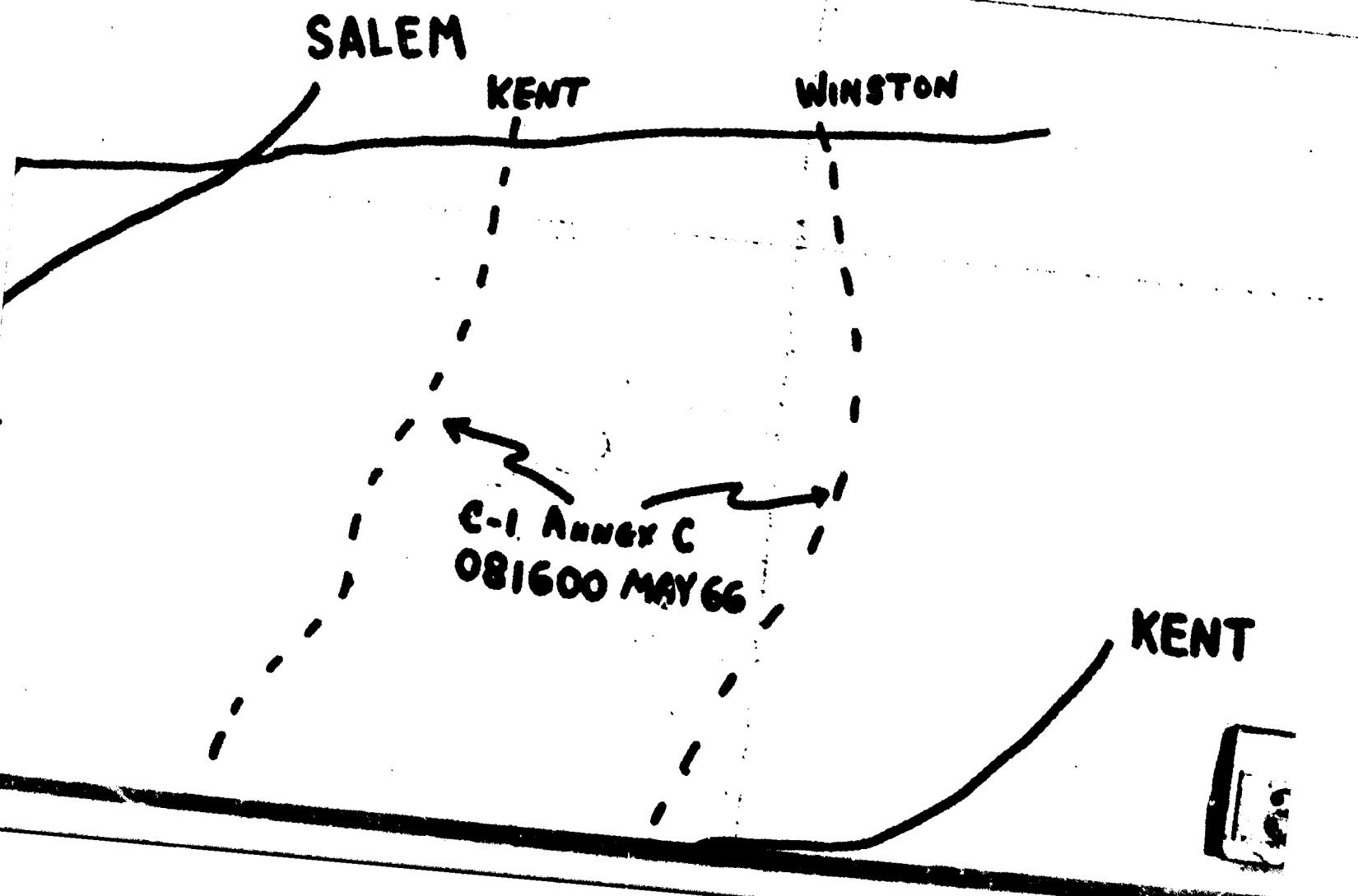
21

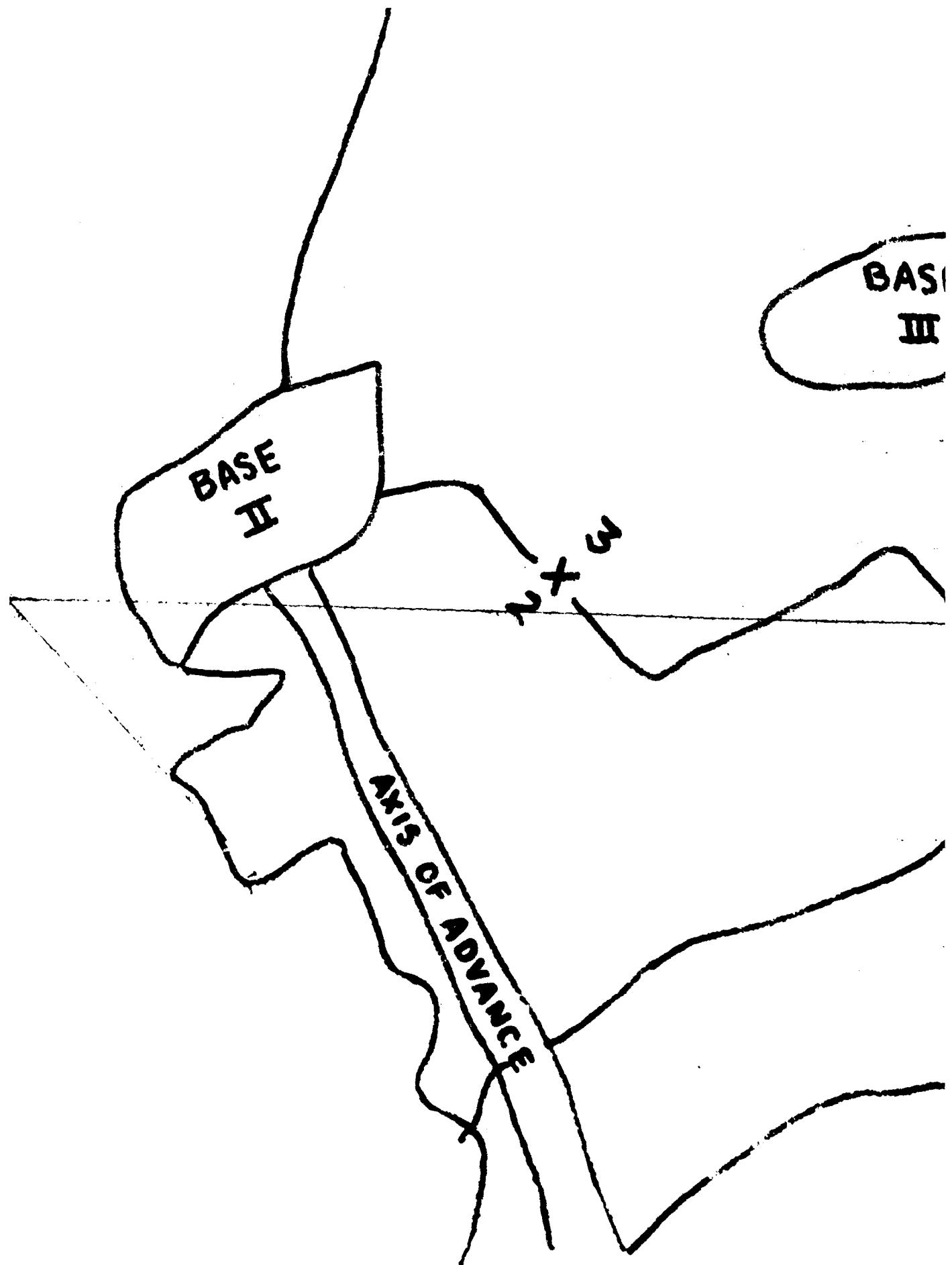
ASE

III

IAL

HEETS





BASE  
III

66  
+ 48

2 X 2

CONFIDENTIAL



C-1 Annex C  
081600 MAY 66

KENT

WINSTON

70

ANNEK H

RECAPITULATION OF ARTY MISSIONS FIRED

CONFIDENTIAL

Annex H to Combat Operations After Action Report Operation BIRMINGHAM

ANNUAL EXPENSES DURING OPERATION BIRMINGHAM (6)

DATE	NET	MP	1/3	MT	PREP	TOTAL	DISPOS	105MM	120MM	82MM	172MM	EXPENSES
24 April 1966	10	80	42	2	2	135	1204	532	2	2	2	1244
25 April 11 1966	7	129	33	7	13	2	326	906	2	2	2	1242
26 April 11 1966	4	119	32	2	15	2	425	2116	621	2	2	3432
27 April 11 1966	4	343	33	2	6	2	383	2192	962	2	2	3132
28 April 11 1966	6	486	50	2	3	2	545	3545	521	2	2	4664
29 April 11 1966	6	335	88	1	4	2	634	6185	1123	2	2	5110
30 April 11 1966	2	258	102	2	1	3	366	4253	1176	2	2	3432
1 May 1966	4	636	36	2	2	2	473	3133	572	2	2	3036
2 May 1966	3	478	37	2	2	1	521	1947	1078	2	2	3036
3 May 1966	1	201	48	2	2	2	252	2212	18	2	2	2230
4 May 1966	1	177	17	2	1	1	196	1666	93	2	2	1532
5 May 1966	5	163	29	2	7	2	206	1263	629	2	2	1634
6 May 1966	10	269	21	2	1	1	201	1151	360	77	16	1634
7 May 1966	3	230	25	2	2	2	103	224	126	121	171	1262

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

72  
Annex H to Combat Operations After Action Report Operation BIRMINGHAM

REQ	AMMUNITION EXPENDED DURING OPERATION BIRMINGHAM (C)					TOTAL ROUNDS						
	REG	NET	A/P	A/S	A/T		MISSILES	105MM	155MM	310MM	175MM	
8 May 1966	10	316	38	-	1	-	365	1531	623	570	-	2524
9 May 1966	12	136	49	-	1	-	243	1417	162	139	12	1800
10 May 1966	7	501	27	-	-	-	535	1726	519	249	63	2642
11 May 1966	11	345	13	-	1	-	325	1166	55	403	239	1533
12 May 1966	5	593	39	-	4	-	646	3232	762	516	133	4643
13 May 1966	5	685	53	3	1	-	747	2066	1151	613	112	6347
14 May 1966	2	820	12	4	6	-	844	3061	704	230	51	4028
15 May 1966	5	592	22	-	1	-	620	1322	733	372	103	3100
16 May 1966	-	382	6	-	1	-	329	1926	632	150	-	2929
17 May 1966	-	255	6	-	1	-	362	1514	-	-	-	1514
TOTAL	117	8304	924	19	76	11	951	51730	13725	3552	37	59997

Note: REG - Registration  
NET - Preparation  
A/P - Anti Personnel  
A/S - Anti Equipment  
A/T - Anti Installation

CONFIDENTIAL

73

ANNEX I  
AFTER ACTION REPORT 1ST BDE



7

74

1<sup>ST</sup> INFANTRY

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS  
1<sup>ST</sup> BRIGADE, 1<sup>ST</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION  
APO U.S. Forces 96345

AVID-SP-0

24 May 1966

SUBJECT: Combat Operations After Action Report (MACV/RCS/13/32)

THRU: Commanding General  
1<sup>ST</sup> Infantry Division  
APO U.S. Forces 96345

TO: Commander  
U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam  
ATTN: MACV-J321  
APO U.S. Forces 96345

1. In accordance with MACV Directive Number 335-8 the following report is submitted:

1<sup>ST</sup> BRIGADE, 1<sup>ST</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION OPERATION

"BIRMINGHAM"

2. During the period 240700 April 071413 May 1966, the 1<sup>ST</sup> Brigade conducted a search and destroy operation with the mission of locating and destroying VC forces and base camps in TAY NINH Province (War Zone "C"), WT 9775, WT 9963, XT 1364, XT 1375, XT 3055, XT 4055, XT 3046, and XT 4046 in AO's BUICK, MERCURY and FIAT respectively. The 1<sup>ST</sup> Bde OPORD 14-66 was issued at 220800 April 66, outlining plans for the operations.

- a. The reporting officer is Colonel Edgar N. Glotzbach.
- b. Task Organization and Task Force commanders were as follows:
  - 1/2 Inf, Lt Col Richard L. Prillaman, Commanding
  - 1/28 Inf, Lt Col Robert Haldane, Commanding
  - 2/16 Inf, Lt Col Richard Hathaway, Commanding
  - 2/18 Inf, Lt Col Herbert McCrystal, Commanding
  - 1/5 Arty (-), Lt Col David D. Rogers, Commanding
  - B Battery, 2/13 Arty, Capt Dennis R. Brualia, Commanding
  - A Troop, 1/4 Cav, Capt Ralph Sturgis, Commanding

3. INTELLIGENCE:

- a. Enemy Situation: Intelligence received on the area of operation, located adjacent to Cambodia in War Zone "C", established it as a major logistical base area through which men and material are infiltrated from Cambodia into SVN. One hospital complex, two production sites and numerous supply and storage points were reported located in the

Downgraded At 3 Yr Intervals  
Declassified After 12 Yrs

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**CONFIDENTIAL**

75

1st Bde area of operation. Prior to this operation the VC had unrestricted use of the area, free of intrusion by ARVN and other FWF. This provided the VC with the ideal place for training newly conscripted personnel, forming new units and an opportunity to refit, regroup and rest his active units.

Order of battle information received was one to three months old. It indicated the 931 Regt, K8-72 Regt, C230 Bn, C 517 Bn, one unidentified Regt and several unidentified battalions as having been or still being in the operational area.

Although the enemy was credited with the ability to attack anywhere in War Zone "C" with up to four (4) Main Force Battalions supported by local force units and to reinforce with two (2) Main Force Regiments and two (2) Main Force Battalions within three days, it was felt that he would only defend his major installations, resort to sabotage, harassing fires and ambushes to inflict casualties and otherwise avoid decisive engagements.

b. VC Strength, Activity and Situation Found During the operation:

(1) During the conduct of the operation it became evident that the intelligence information received and estimate made prior to the operation were basically correct. Numerous supply points, storage areas, rice caches and one hospital complex (located approximately 7000 meters further north than previously reported by intelligence) were found along the South Vietnamese side of the RACH CAI BAC River in area of Operation BUICK. Locations of installations reported and actually found are contained in inclosures to this report. A complete list of equipment and material captured or destroyed is contained in paragraph 8, RESULTS. VC uniforms captured indicated manufacture in Red China and infiltration packs captured tend to confirm infiltration routes through War Zone "C".

Several training camps and areas, instructional aids and field manuals captured substantiate the use of War Zone "C" as a training area. The absence of elaborate field fortifications other than protection from air attacks, depicts the sense of security from ground attacks enjoyed by the VC in this area. It is interesting to note that when A 1/28 Inf returned to a supply point on 27 April to complete destruction of material captured the previous day, A 1/28 found that the VC had booby-trapped the area overnight. This implies that many of the mines and booby-traps encountered by friendly forces had hastily been placed in their path of advance, underlining that the VC had not anticipated an intrusion into this secure area. Although designations were taken from captured documents no positive identifications by actual contact were made.

The actions of the VC were in accord with the intelligence estimate. VC continually harassed friendly units with SA fire both day and night. On two occasions indirect fire was received at night. With the exception of light SA fire on three occasions, heliborne assault landings and extractions were unopposed although VC ground fire against aircraft was quite frequent. The VC did not defend their installations which were entered either unopposed or after brief engagements with light delaying forces.

During the entire operation only one major engagement, the battle of LO GO (IT 9775) was fought, on 30 Apr. Prior to 30 April the 1/2 Inf had received sporadic SA fire from the Cambodian side of the RACH CAI BAC River while executing a search and destroy mission while advancing north along the river. During the morning hours of April 30 the 1/2 Inf made light contact with the VC which by noon had developed into a major battle at LO GO (IT 9775). The VC Battalion size force was deployed partially at LO GO facing south with the remainder of the force deployed on the Cambodian side of the river facing east and attempting to cross over. The valiant effort of the 1/2 Inf and 2/16, combined with artillery fire power and supported by TAC Air thwarted the crossing attempt and eventually caused the enemy located east of the river to retreat into Cambodian, leaving 54 KIA (BC) and another 100 KIA possible on the battle field.

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**CONFIDENTIAL**

76

It was surprising that a VC battalion size force having neither a numerically superior force, the element of surprise, fighting from well fortified positions or some other tactical advantage stood against two US Battalions. Since the operational plan had not included an advance north of LO GO it can be only theorized that VC losses of equipment and material of the previous days had made him desperate to the point of attacking the US Force in an attempt to delay the advance to gain time to evacuate material further north and into Cambodia. A second reason could have been to gain time to prepare these installations for defense to include reinforcements.

c. Terrain and Weather:

(1) During the early phases of the operation the weather was dry and hot, changing to cloudy skies, thunderstorms and increased humidity towards the end. The terrain in Area BUICK was primarily heavy jungle, yet with sufficient clearings to allow helicopter resupply. In Area FIAT the terrain was mostly open with rubber plantations.

(2) Field fortifications encountered consisted mostly of trenches and AA weapons emplacements, with air shelters in base camps. No extensive tunnel systems were located. A diagram of a hospital located at vic WT 977736 is attached as inclosure 5. Diagrams of base camps found vic XT 006647 and vic XT 429473 are attached as inclosures 6 and 7.

4. MISSION: From 1st Infantry Division OPORD 8-66 (Operation BIRMINGHAM) dated 19 April 1966:

1st Brigade:

- (1) Attached 2/16 Inf on afternoon of 24 May 66.
- (2) One airmobile company DS effective 23 Apr 66.
- (3) Move by C-130 aircraft to TAY NINH 3 airfield on 24 Apr 66.
- (4) Conduct airmobile assault in AO BUICK on 24 Apr 66.
- (5) Conduct search and destroy operations in AO LUICK.
- (6) On order, conduct search and destroy operations in AO NASH and AO DODGE.

5. CONCEPT OF OPERATION: 1st Brigade operations will be conducted in five (5) Phases: (See Operations Overlay) (Inclosures 1-4)

a. Maneuver:

Phase I (24 April): 1st Brigade moves by C-130 and CV-2 aircraft from PHUOC VINH to TAY NINH, and PHUOC LONG XT 331575, transloads to helicopters, conducts airmobile assault on LZ RED, establishes arty base on LZ RED, clears the area contiguous to LZ RED, prepares to conduct search and destroy operations in zone on 25 Apr 66.

Phase II (25 Apr - 28 Apr): 1/2 Inf and 1/28 Inf conduct search and destroy operations in zone commencing 250730 Apr 66.

Phase III (29 Apr - 2 May): 1st Bde conducts operations in AO NASH.

Phase IV (3 May - 6 May): 1st Bde conducts operations in AO DODGE.

**CONFIDENTIAL**

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

77 Phase V (7-8 May): 1st Bde redeploys to PHUOC VINH by air and ground convoy.

b. Fires:

- (1) Arty: 1/5 Arty provides and coordinates arty fire support.
- (2) Air:
  - (a) Preplanned requests to this Hqs by 0800 hrs the day preceding the strike.
  - (b) Immediate requests: SOP
  - (c) Armed helicopters support this operations as required.

c. 1/2 Inf: Three (3) demo teams A 1st Engr SPT

- (1) Move by CV-2 (Caribou) from PHUOC VINH to PHUOC LONG XT 331575.
- (2) Upon arrival at PHUOC LONG XT 331575 transload to HU1D helicopters.
- (3) Conduct landing on LZ RED.
- (4) Secure area contiguous to LZ RED out to 1000 meters.
- (5) Occupy west portion of Bde perimeter.
- (6) Conduct search and destroy operations in zone commencing 250730 Apr 66.

(7) Furnish one (1) rifle squad to Bde Hqs on 23 Apr 66 for defense of Bde TAC CP.

d. 1/26 Inf:

- (1) CO 1/26 Inf designated PHUOC VINH Base Camp commander effective 241200 Apr 66.
- (2) Furnish one (1) rifle squad to B 1/4 Cav during hours of darkness during conduct of this operation.
- (3) Prepare to execute 1st Bde OPLAN 2-65 (STOPGAP).
- (4) Furnish one rifle squad to Bde Hqs on 23 Apr for defense of Bde TAC CP.

e. 1/28 Inf: Three (3) demo teams 1st Engr SPT:

- (1) Move by C-130 from PHUOC VINH to TAY NINH.
- (2) Upon arrival TAY NINH transload to HU1D helicopters.
- (3) Conduct airmobile assault on LZ RED.
- (4) Secure LZ RED and receive one (1) btry (105) 1/5 Arty.
- (5) Upon closing of 1/2 Inf on LZ RED secure area contiguous to LZ RED out to 100 meters.
- (6) Occupy east portion of Bde perimeter.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

**CONFIDENTIAL**

(7) Conduct search and destroy operations in zone commencing 250730 Apr 66.

78

(8) Furnish one (1) rifle squad to Bde Hqs on 23 Apr for defense of Bde TAC CP.

f. 2/16 Inf:

(1) On order, Move to LZ RED on 25 Apr 66.

(2) Upon arrival LZ RED secure Arty Base.

(3) Maintain one (1) rifle company on 30 min alert in base area.

(4) Conduct operations in area adjacent to LZ RED as directed by this Hqs.

g. 1/5 Arty (-) (DS):

(1) Move by C-130 aircraft from PHUOC VINH to TAY NINH.

(2) Upon arrival at TAY NINH transload to CH-47 aircraft.

(3) On order move to LZ RED.

(4) Coordinate arty fire to insure continuous support.

h. B 1/4 Cav:

(1) Troop (-) remains under OFCON of parent battalion.

(2) B 1/4 Cav rear continue present mission.

(3) B 1/4 Cav rear prepares to receive one (1) rifle squad 1/26 Inf during hours of darkness for defense of troop perimeter.

i. A 1st Engr (-) (DS):

(1) Two platoons remain under OFCON parent battalion.

(2) Furnish three (3) demo teams each to 1/2 Inf and 1/28 Inf for this operation.

(3) Rear detachment continue present mission.

j. HHC 1st Bde:

(1) Move 1st Bde TAC CP to Bde base area on 24 Apr.

(2) Provide and coordinate support of 1st Bde TAC CP.

k. 1/1 MP (DS)

(1) Provide two (2) squads to HHC 1st Bde on 23 Apr 66.

(2) Platoon (-) continue present mission.

l. Coordinating Instructions:

(1) Command and control aircraft HUMD/LOH/available on mission basis.

(2) Riot control agents authorized for use against tunnel and bunker complexes.

**CONFIDENTIAL**

CONFIDENTIAL

(3) All personnel will carry protective masks.

(4) Bns use close-in indirect fire around defensive perimeters during the hours of darkness.

(5) Arty fires around defensive perimeters will be registered prior to darkness.

(6) Units carry sufficient smoke grenades and marking panels to mark positions during Air/Arty strikes.

(7) Destroy VC caches in place only on approval of this Hqs.

(8) Units participating on Operation BIRMINGHAM leave minimum force behind to provide base camp security.

(9) Commanders will insure that non-combatants and their property are safe guarded consistent with the tactical situation.

(10) Units carry additional claymore mines consistent with load carrying capability.

(11) Units carry sufficient concertina to provide single band around defensive perimeters (base areas).

6. EXECUTION: The Bde initiated OXFORD 15-66, Operation BIRMINGHAM, on 24 Apr 66 with Bde elements moving by C-130 and CV-2 aircraft to TAY-NINH 3 Airfield, transloading to HU1D and CH-47 helicopters to a Bde base area located at XT 025652. The following events occurred during conduct of Phase I (24 Apr): At 1510 hrs, 1/2 Inf conducted airmobile assault on LZ WHITE. Bn engaged unknown number of VC at 1735 hrs vic XT 0064 resulting in 7 US KIA and 13 US WIA. 1/28 Inf and 2/16 Inf closed LZ RED without incident at 1350 and 1643 hrs with negative contact, and both units began saturation patrolling vic LZ RED (XT 025652).

Operations in AO BUCK (25 -27 Apr) were as follows: At 251020H 1/2 Inf located and destroyed a VC Base Camp vic XT 004647 consisting of three (3) huts, trenches, clothing, a bicycle and some food. B 2/16 Inf received SA fire and three (3) rifle grenades from vic XT 020643, at 251105H, no casualties or damage received. At 251315H vic XT 028650, Recon 2/16 received one (1) rd sniper fire and two (2) rifle grenades resulting in one (1) US KIA. Armed helicopters struck the location and VC evaded upon pursuit. 1/28 Inf reported negative contact during their saturation patrolling operation. At 260700H, 1/2 Inf secured LZ for its extraction and introduction of 2/16 Inf. 1/2 Inf assumed mission of securing Arty base and completed helift to LZ RED at 0845 hrs. At 261405, 2/16 Inf engaged a VC force of undetermined size vic XT 973660 resulting in one (1) VC KIA (Est). At 261430H 1/28 Inf, conducting operations between WT 982655 and WT 990645 along the RACH CAI BAC River, came under SA fire vic WT 990658. During pursuit of VC, the Bn located and destroyed 2 small base camps with material and foodstuffs. C 2/16 captured an AK assault rifle and killed one VC at 261435H vic WT 979658. At 261450H, A 2/16 received SA fire from 3 VC across river, unit returned fire and resulted in 2 VC KIA (DC). At 270245H 1/2 Inf received 3 rds of friendly Arty in their base camp position sustaining three (3) WIA. 1/28 found large amounts of VC supplies and a rice cache vic WT 989652 at 0840 hrs. Rice cache was booby trapped and unit sustained 13 WIA. At 0950 hrs, B 1/28 located and destroyed at WT 990649, six (6) huts, messhall and classroom, 44 Chicom grenades with wooden handles, 1/2 ton rice, 200 lbs grain, one animal pen and assorted documents. The documents were evacuated to Bde collecting point. At 1000 hrs B 2/16 located and destroyed 200 lbs of polished rice, 200 lbs of unpolished rice, 50 lbs of salt and one hut vic WT 978664. B 1/28 located and destroyed 50 tons of rice and one hut at 1015 hrs vic WT 990649. At 1030 hrs, B 1/28 located and destroyed 100 tons of rice, 25 tons of rock salt, 500 lbs of cloth in bolts and 5 metal animal drawn carts vic WT 990649. Two (2) tons of rice was destroyed by C 2/16 at 1103 hrs vic WT 964656. At 1245 hrs B 1/28 located the following items vic WT 989649: One (1) bottle magnesium sulfate crystals, one (1) bottle of camphor, one (1) bottle vitamins, popper, one (1)

CONFIDENTIAL

80

cannister of sanitary napkins, two (2) shirts, one (1) pair pants, nine (9) signs, four (4) documents, three (3) bicycles and one (1) document with instructions on how to make bombs. A 2/16 engaged approximate VC squad at 1250 hrs vic WT 960668 resulting in three (3) US WIA and two (2) VC KIA (BC) and the capture of one (1) each US carbine and Russian Rifle. At 1310 hrs, 1/2 Inf conducted an airmobile assault on LZ BLUE. The unopposed assault was preceded by a 30 min airstrike and a 20 minute Artillery preparation. At 1558 hrs A 2/16 located and destroyed 800 black uniforms, 63 tons of rice, 16 boats, and 6000 khaki uniforms vic WT 961677. At 1645 hrs, B 1/28 located and destroyed 5.9 tons of rice vic WT 990659. Recon 2/16 discovered a trench system at WT 960678 at 1647 hrs and 9.5 tons of rice was located and destroyed at 1710 hrs vic WT 989647. At 280530H, 1/2 Inf made initial contact with the VC when SA fire was received from across the RACH CAI BAC River vic WT 969700. Unable to determine location of SA Fire, unit continued search and discovered a rice cache of 32 tons which was destroyed in place vic WT 966700, at 0908 hrs. During the destruction of rice cache, unit again engaged the VC resulting in two (2) US WIA and 1 VC KIA (BC). At 0955 hrs, A 1/28 located and destroyed 14 huts with black boards, training aids, furniture, 3,000 sheets of paper and envelopes, 24 flashlight batteries, ten (10) oil lamps, two (2) gallons of oil 40 shirts and trousers, 50 yds of poncho material, and 50 lbs of assorted food (fish, candy and rice) vic WT 988660. At 1003 hrs the aggressive search by the 1/28 Inf again located and destroyed valuable VC supplies vic WT 987661 consisting of three (3) shotguns, three (3) bicycles, assorted documents (which were evacuated) training aids, signs and posters. At 1010 hrs, A 1/28 located at WT 995679 and C 1/28 located at WT 984677, found and destroyed respectively: Two (2) buildings, five (5) tons of rice, medical supplies, and training aids; a base camp consisting of 30 buildings, a day room, a dining hall, ping pong table, propaganda leaflets, kitchen tables, kitchen, eight (8) stores, two (2) wheels, a training room, black boards, posters, a four bed hospital and one (1) ton of rice and 400 lbs of fish. At 1030 hrs, A 1/2 received 2 US WIA from a claymore mine vic WT 972704. In order to maintain contact, B 1/2 executed a sweeping movement to the east, regaining contact with the VC until 1245 hrs.

Unit received seven (7) WIA, and one (1) KIA during this action from a claymore mine, a grenade and small arms fire. Artillery and Airstrikes were used to block the enemy's escape and a forward observer directed fire on VC attempting to swim the RACH CAI BAC River vic WT 966723 at 1600 hrs.

At 1030 hrs D 1/28 Inf located a base camp vic WT 938673 consisting of (See results, para 8).

Because of the aggressive movement of the Inf Bn's, Bde TAC GP and Arty base was relocated to provide close and continuous fire support to the advancing battalions. Arty base was moved to LZ vic XT 033718 terminating operations in AO BUICK.

During operations in AO MERCURY, the following events took place: At 290827H, A 1/28 engaged an estimated 15 VC vic XT 032712 dug in well fortified positions. Fire was exchanged resulting in three (3) US KIA, three (3) US WIA and three (3) VC KIA (POSS). Moving along the east shore of RACH CAI BAC River, 1/2 Inf sustained three (3) WIA from booby trap vic WT 970720 at 1105 hrs. At 1119 hrs, while securing LZ FREE (XT 032710) A 1/28 located and destroyed one (1) claymore mine intact with wire and battery. At 1120 hrs C 1/2 Inf located and destroyed 22 tons of rice vic WT 970720 and B 2/16 located and destroyed 30 tons of rice vic WT 967724 while clearing a tunnel network at 1130 hrs. At 1300 hrs, B 2/16 exchanged SA fire with undetermined number of VC vic WT 974728 resulting in 1 VC KIA (BC). At 1442 hrs B 1/28 made contact with one VC. Unit pursued VC into jungle. Fire was exchanged and B 1/28 sustained one (1) US KIA. At 1632 hrs 2/16 Inf became OFCON 1st Bde and conducted an airmobile assault on LZ ORANGE (XT 015730). An HU1D lifting element from 2/18 received SA fire from vic XT 626447 wounding one crew man. Armed helicopters took area under fire.

**CONFIDENTIAL**

81

2/18 closed LZ ORANGE at 1728 hrs. At 1735 hrs, B 1/2 Inf sustained 3 US KHA 4 US WHA from a claymore mine vic WT 970740. At 300845H, 1/2 Inf engaged a sniper vic WT 971745 sustaining one US WHA, unit pursued sniper but lost contact when VC fled into the jungle. At 0915 hrs the battalion began receiving machine gun fire from across the RACH CAI EAC River vic WT 970754. At the same time two (2) VC squads were sighted east of the river. The battalion used armed helicopters, artillery and TAC Air to block the enemy and remained in contact until 1420 hrs. During this encounter, Bn sustained 6 KHA and 8 WHA while inflicting 33 KIA (BC) on the VC and 75 KIA (POSS). 2/18 Inf located and destroyed a small VC base camp with accomodations for approximately two (2) VC companies, at 0930 hrs vic XT 013641. At 1013 hrs the 2/18 Inf maneuvered to block VC engaged by 1/2 Inf and 2/16 Inf but could not gain contact. At 0940 hrs 2/16 Inf maneuvered with 1/2 Inf on east side of the RACH CAI DAC River inflicting 8 KIA (BC) on the VC on east side of the river and 25 KIA (POSS) on the west side. At 1205 hrs B 2/16 engaged 4 VC vic WT 969760 killed them and captured their individual weapons. At 1210 hrs, B 1/28 LF sighted one VC vic XT 027714 and took him under fire. A search of the area was made revealing a blood trail leading into the jungle, accounting for one VC KIA (POSS). At 1335 hrs C 1/28 made contact with six (6) VC vic XT 044705. Company maneuvered and engaged with SA fire and artillery. VC returned fire, fled their positions by means of trenches and disappeared in the jungle, action resulted in one US KHA and two (2) US WHA. An air strike was called on VC avenues of escape. A search of the area revealed a base camp with miscellaneous supplies and 20 buildings. C 1/28 Inf destroyed the buildings and evacuated the supplies and equipment. 1/28 Inf discovered and destroyed a "C" base camp vic XT 036694 at 011030H, capturing 2 VC women, and one child. Other VC fled into jungle and was pursued by Artillery. At 1101 hrs, D 1/28 captured one VC armed with a Thompson SMG vic XT 036692. A 1/28 received one WHA from sniper fire at 1120 hrs at XT 032713. At 1201 hrs 1/2 Inf was extracted from LZ XT 0273 and reverted to OPCON of 3rd Bde, closing AO AUSTIN at 1242 hrs. At 1305 hrs 1/28 Inf located and destroyed a way-station with several fox holes at XT 010730 and an old bolt action rifle was found. At 1330 hrs a sniper fired several rds of SA fire into Log Base area vic XT 3248, elements returned fire resulting in one (1) VC KIA (BC) and no friendly casualties. C 1/28 located and destroyed 51 tons of rice, and 8 huts at 1412 hrs vic XT 036686. All Bde elements reported negative contact during the hours of darkness.

On 02 May 66 operations commenced in AO FIAT with 1st Bde elements moving by helilift to vic XT 3250 commencing 0645 hrs and closing area at 1429 hrs. The remainder of the day and 3 and 4 May 66, were used to establish defensive perimeters and to conduct maintenance and care and cleaning of equipment. Operations in AO FIAT continued with the following actions : At 041200H, A 1/4 Cav was attached to 1st Bde and assumed the mission of securing the Arty base vic XT 378428. At 041930H, 2/16 Inf was directed to conduct a rapid overnight march to conduct early morning surprise seal and search operation on Objectives 1 (XT 37057) and 2 (XT 37546). C 2/16 reached attack position near Objective 1 at 050300H and sealed area. At 0630 hrs search was conducted with District Chief and revealed the area had been abandoned for some time. C 2/16 then established a blocking position North of Objective 2 to support with the remainder of the battalion. In (-) conducted search of Objective 2 following an airdropped CS attack with negative contact but discovered a small arms ammunition cache at XT 375479 at 1258 hrs, capturing and evacuating 60 rds 7.62mm, one US Grenade, one medical bag, two 55 gal drums of polished rice and 10 feet of detonation cord. (See appendix 1 to After Action Report concerning Air Dropped CS).

**CONFIDENTIAL**

7

CONFIDENTIAL

82 At 1310 hrs, C 2/18 Inf engaged an unknown number of VC vic XT 420477, unit pursued VC but lost contact when VC dispersed and fled into jungle. At 1317 hrs B 2/18 located and destroyed a small base camp vic XT 429473 consisting of 7 huts, 2 small trenches and bunkers. At 1330 hrs A 1/4 Cav, conducting local security operations apprehended two (2) VCS at XT 415443 and one (1) VCS at XT 395433 and evacuated them to division base. C 1/28 apprehended one VCS vic XT 296499 at 1337 hrs and D 1/28 located and destroyed two (2) ox carts, one bicycle, one tow chain, 450 punji stakes and 20 fox holes with overhead cover vic XT 342511 at 1400 hrs. At 1530 hrs, C 2/18 Inf in pursuit of an unknown number of VC vic XT 435475, sustained 2 US KIA and 7 WHA from Artillery which had been called in to cut off VC avenues of escape. At 1550 hrs, D 1/28 located and evacuated two mortar rounds, caliber unknown, vic XT 336507. On 06 May at 0918 hrs, A 1/28 located and destroyed a communications liaison station vic XT 338512 consisting of six (6) buildings, several books, cooking utensils, two (2) grenades and 25 lbs of rice. Several documents and the books were evacuated to division base. 2/18 Inf received light SA fire through out the morning and first contact was established by the Redon Flat at 1034 hrs vic XT 450468. VC fled into jungle and one was believed to be wounded. At 1054 hrs, C 1/28 located and destroyed three (3) foxholes with overhead cover vic XT 350481. D 2/18 made contact with unknown number of VC at 1119 hrs vic XT 455457, resulting in one VC KIA (POSS) one M-1 rifle captured. VC fled into jungle and broke contact at 1230 hrs. At 1230 hrs, A 2/18 engaged and pursued 4 VC vic XT 450450 who returned fire, dispersed and fled into jungle breaking contact at 1258 hrs. Results were 5 US WHA and 2 VC KIA (POSS). On 7 May at 0730 hrs, Bde HHC commenced airlift to base camp, PHUOC VINH, utilizing 10 lifts of C 130 aircraft closing base camp 1430 hrs, thus terminating Operation BIRMINGHAM.

7. Supporting Forces:

a. 1st Bn, 5th Arty (-): (DS)

(1) This organization consisted of Headquarters and Service Battery and two (2) firing batteries ( A & B ) with B 2/13 Arty attached from 24 Apr 66 thru 7 May 66.

(2) How and When Employed:

(a) Hqs, A, and B Btry's: Were airlifted into TAY NINH 3 Airfield by C-130 and CV-2 Aircraft. Personnel & equipment were then lifted by CH-47 aircraft to Arty Base vic LZ RED, (XT 0246) established defensive positions and provided fire support for area of operation.

(b) Btry D: Provided fires in support of base camp area vic PHUOC VINH (XT 9849).

(c) Btry B 2/13 Arty: Was Airlifted into area of operation by CH-47 Aircraft. The btry was attached to 1/5 Arty (-) to give additional support to 1st Bde and occupied firing positions vic Arty Base (XT 0245)

(d) Period and number of rds fired by type 24 Apr 66 thru 2 May 66:

	<u>H-14474</u>	<u>PREPARATION</u>	<u>D/13</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
105mm HE	8915	412	3505	12,832
105mm WP	37	10	18	65
105mm ILL	17			17

TOTAL H-14474 MISSIONS: 1193

TOTAL PREPARATIONS: 37

CONFIDENTIAL

*(CONFIDENTIAL)*

83 b. U.S. Air Force: In support of Operation EIRMINGHAM (24 April-6 May 66), a total of one hundred and eight (108) strike missions were flown resulting in a total of 324 sorties. Fighter sorties were as follows:

24 Apr 66	10
25 Apr 66	6
26 Apr 66	10
27 Apr 66	12
28 Apr 66	8
29 Apr 66	7
30 Apr 66	12
1 May 66	9
2 May 66	6
3 May 66	5
4 May 66	6
5 May 66	8
6 May 66	9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>108</b>

8. Results of Operation:

a. Equipment Evacuated:

<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>ITEM</u>
48	Uniforms Black
48	Uniforms Khaki
2	Refrigerators
40	Leaflets
100 boxes	Documents
50	Books
100 lbs	Medical Supplies
20	Small Arms Weapons
1	Mortar Round
7	Bicycles

b. Equipment Destroyed:

<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>ITEM</u>
1533.8 Tons	Rice
240.55 Tons	Salt
6.5 Tons	Fish
320 lbs	Grain
3.5 Tons	Sugar
344 Cans	Milk
1240 gals	Cooking Oil

**CONFIDENTIAL -**

CONFIDENTIAL

84

.9 Tons	Pens
2305	Uniforms, Black
5067	Uniforms, Khaki
2400	Shirts, Green
2600	Shirts
20	Sweaters
90 sets	Underwear
121	Shirts, Black
100 meters	Flannel Material
500 lbs in bolts	Black Material
1750 meters	Plastic Materials
20	Racks
2000 prs	Sandles
20	Canteens, Plastic
1	Rice Mill
8	Kitchen Stoves
3	Guitars, Electric
1	Radio, Trans-8
1	Portable PA Set
10,000 board ft	Lumber
20 lbs	Nails
20 tubes	Printers Ink
1	Ping Pong Table
40 lbs	Marijuana
100 bags	Cement
100	Oil Lamps
1000 ea	Envelope, Paper
36	Battery, DA-30
1500 bars	Soap
10 lbs	Carbide
900 lbs	Medical Supplies
100	Quinine Pills

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>ITEM</u>
1100 lbs (approx)	Misc, Medical Supplies and equipment
1 pt	Whole Blood
648	Huts
22	Base Camps
5	Hospitals (2-Dispensary and 3-Aid Station)
1	Cart Factory
15	Bunkers
1	Training Aid
720 rds	SA Munitions
6	Mines, Claymore
129	Grenades
7	Cross Bows
Unk Amt	Elasting Caps
2 lbs	Explosives
2090 gals	Gasoline
182 gals	Oil
110 gals	Kerosene
143	Boats
1	Boat, 40'
5	Boats, Motor
33	Ox Carts
43	Bicycles
5	Plows, Steel
20	Knife, Cane
22	Sewing Machines
10	Saws
1	Pump, Water
10	Shovels
15 lbs	Parts, Duplicating Machine
1	Grain Thresher

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>ITEM</u>
250 lbs (approx)	Parts, Boat, Motor
2	Typewriters
1	Printing Press

c. FRIENDLY LOSSES:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>WHA</u>	<u>KHA</u>	<u>MHA</u>	<u>DOW</u>
24 Apr 66	13	7	0	0
25 Apr 66	0	1	0	0
26 Apr 66	0	0	0	0
27 Apr 66	19	0	0	0
28 Apr 66	9	4	0	1
29 Apr 66	10	7	1	0
30 Apr 66	11	7	0	0
1 May 66	1	1	0	0
2 May 66	0	0	0	0
3 May 66	0	0	0	0
4 May 66	0	0	0	0
5 May 66	7	2	0	0
6 May 66	5	0	0	0

**TOTAL**                    **75**    **29**    **1**    **1**

d. FRIENDLY MATERIAL LOSSES:

<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>ITEM</u>
1	AN/RC 69, Destroyed
1	5 KW Generator, Destroyed

e. ENEMY LOSSES:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>KIA (PC)</u>	<u>KIA (POSS)</u>	<u>VCC CAPTURED</u>
24 Apr 66	0	0	0
25 Apr 66	0	0	0
26 Apr 66	3	1	0
27 Apr 66	3	1	0
28 Apr 66	1	0	0
29 Apr 66	1	3	0

CONFIDENTIAL

<del>CONFIDENTIAL</del>				
DATE	(BC)	KIA (POSS)	VCG CA	RED
30 Apr 66	53	101	0	
1 May 66	3	2	4	
2 May 66	0	0	0	
3 May 66	0	0	0	
4 May 66	0	0	0	
5 May 66	0	0	4	
6 May 66	3	9	0	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>8</b>	

9. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS:

a. Administrative matters were adequate to ensure resupply of committed units. The utilization of the direct support aviation company for resupply aircraft greatly assisted in the rapid response to known requirements and changes due to the tactical situation.

(1) Supply:

(a) Techniques of supply used during the operation were of three (3) types:

1 Six (6) each UH1D helicopters were used daily to deliver supplies to the forward base area and RON positions north of the Division Logistical Base. During the early morning and late afternoon hours maximum effort was placed on the extraction of unnecessary equipment in RON positions. The remainder of the day was devoted to resupplying the forward base area normally occupied by an artillery battalion, one infantry battalion and an element of brigade headquarters. This system was used when resupply could not be effected by road convoy.

2 CH-47A helicopters were used to deliver artillery ammunition and when UH1D helicopters were not available for resupply of units in the forward base area. However, the use of CH-47A helicopters is not feasible for delivery to RON positions as normally large LZ's are not available and loading and unloading is time consuming since supplies must be man handled.

3 When the Brigade units were located in the rubber plantation vic XT 3247, road convoys were utilized on a daily basis to resupply those except when battalions were conducting search and destroy operations away from this base. Usually the battalion carried enough supplies to sustain themselves until they returned to the base area or minimum supplies were delivered by UH1D helicopters.

(b) During the operation, 300 tons of material was delivered by UH1D helicopters. An undetermined tonnage of artillery ammunition was delivered by CH-47A aircraft as well as resupply of units by road during the latter part of the operation.

(c) Units entered the operation with a basic load of ammunition, rations and necessary supplies and replenished expenditures from the Division Logistical Base as required.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CONFIDENTIAL

88  
(a) Weapons and ammunition carried by assault troops of infantry battalions included M-16 rifles and 60mm mortars. 82mm mortars with crew and ammunition were airlifted into RCN positions at night and extracted the following morning. Those units who brought 107mm mortars to the operational area utilized those weapons in the defense of the Division Logistical Base.

(2) Maintenance: No significant problems were encountered by attached units. The utilization of a Division Maintenance contact team appears to be more responsive to unit requirements as repair parts can be obtained easier and faster from an element of this type rather than the shipment of parts from the Brigade Home Base.

(3) Treatment of Casualties and Evacuation and Hospitalization (See para (6) below)

(4) Transportation: The use of CV-2 aircraft for the delivery of men and material from Brigade Home Bases was encouraged. However, units observed that under the original schedule of multiple stops prior to arrival at the Division Logistical Base, the aircraft was filled before arriving at the Brigade Home Base (PHUOC VINH) and consequently negligible cargo or passenger space was available. The change of the schedule to incorporate a trip from the Division Logistical Base to the Brigade Home Base and return, insured that each major unit had ample space for men and supplies.

(5) Communications: No major communications problems were experienced during the operation. Communications employed were adequate to meet the requirement of the Brigade Commander and subordinate unit commanders. During the first phase of the operation, VHF between division and brigade was established, however, it is believed that the VHF configuration is too bulky for airmobile type operations. The airlift requirements for the VHF facilities was three (3) CH-47A loads. The generator trailer and AN/MRC-69 shelter were both sling-loaded on a CH-47 and while lifting to a LZ, the sling broke resulting in complete loss to both items.

(6) Medical Evaluation: During the operation, a composite clearing station was established in the forward area. This clearing station consisted of doctors, a dentist, an aid man and medical supplies from the Brigade and Battalions size units involved. A nurse anesthetist and surgical team from the Third Surgical Hospital was also available. Medical evacuation helicopters were on "Stand-By" at all times.

The medical coverage afforded by this clearing station was excellent. The presence of the medical evacuation aircraft at the clearing station markedly decreased evacuation time from the front lines to the medical installation. The location of the clearing station in a fairly secure area with adequate facilities and ample physicians and medics resulted in excellent emergency care. On one occasion, the surgical team performed life-saving surgery. Once the patient had been stabilized at the clearing station, evacuation further to the rear was accomplished with a minimum of danger and discomfort.

b. Personnel Status During Operation BIRMINGHAM:

<u>Organization Designation</u>	<u>On Initiated</u>	<u>On Terminated</u>
HMC, 1st Bde	AUTH	122
	ASSIGN	130
	PDY	130
	PIF	74
	PBC	56
	AUTH	829
1/2 Inf	ASSIGN	942
	PDY	863
		122
		136
		13
		123
		829
		931
		826

CONFIDENTIAL

*CONFIDENTIAL*

<u>Organization Designation</u>		<u>Opn Initiated</u>	<u>Opn Terminated</u>
<i>89</i>	1/2 Inf	606	590
	PIF	236	236
1/28 Inf	PBC	829	829
	AUTH	847	845
	ASSIGN	788	783
	PDY	612	605
	PIF	176	178
	PBC	489	489
	AUTH	488	484
	ASSIGN	478	458
1/5 Arty	PDY	318	413
	PIF	160	45
	PBC		

Not on Operation BIRMINGHAM:

1/26 Inf	AUTH	829	829
	ASSIGN	856	850
	PDY	782	776
	PIF	883	77
	PBC	699	693

10. SPECIAL EQUIPMENT AND TECHNIQUES:

a. The employment of an increase of massive artillery fires to seal and clear areas for advancing ground forces conducting search and destroy operations, proved very effective and enhanced the maneuver elements to move uninterrupted and rapidly.

b. The airmobile move of the Bde TAC CP to forward locations by CH-47 aircraft was another technique introduced and used effectively.

c. Special equipment used (See appendix 1)

11. COMMANDER'S ANALYSIS: The most significant aspect of Operation BIRMINGHAM was the destruction of vast quantities of VC supplies and facilities along the RACH CAI DAC River between Cambodia and South Vietnam. The impact of this operation should have a long term effect on VC ability to shelter and feed large numbers of personnel.

The battle of LO GO once again demonstrated the effectiveness of the combined arms team. Following a devastating artillery and air preparation, two Infantry Battalions demonstrated their ability to maneuver in close terrain and successfully engage and destroy an enemy force.

Notwithstanding the material losses, the loss of prestige and control in an area formally considered a safe haven should result in a demoralizing blow to VC stability and influence in TAY NINH Province. This Brigade plans to exploit its victories over the VC in TAY NINH Province through its widespread Psychological Warfare media.

Another aspect of the operation which has tactical significance was the ability of the Brigade Task Force to react rapidly to a fluid tactical situation. By use of HU-16 and CH-47 aircraft the Brigade was able to move swiftly, orienting itself on suspect VC locations rather than specific geographic objectives.

Operation BIRMINGHAM added another first to the 1st Brigade list of achievements by having been the Brigade furthest west into War Zone C.

**CONFIDENTIAL**

CONFIDENTIAL

In Conclusion, Operation BIRMINGHAM becomes another Hallmark in the counter-insurgency effort in Vietnam.

90

FOR THE COMMANDER:

*Samuel J. Zzremlj*

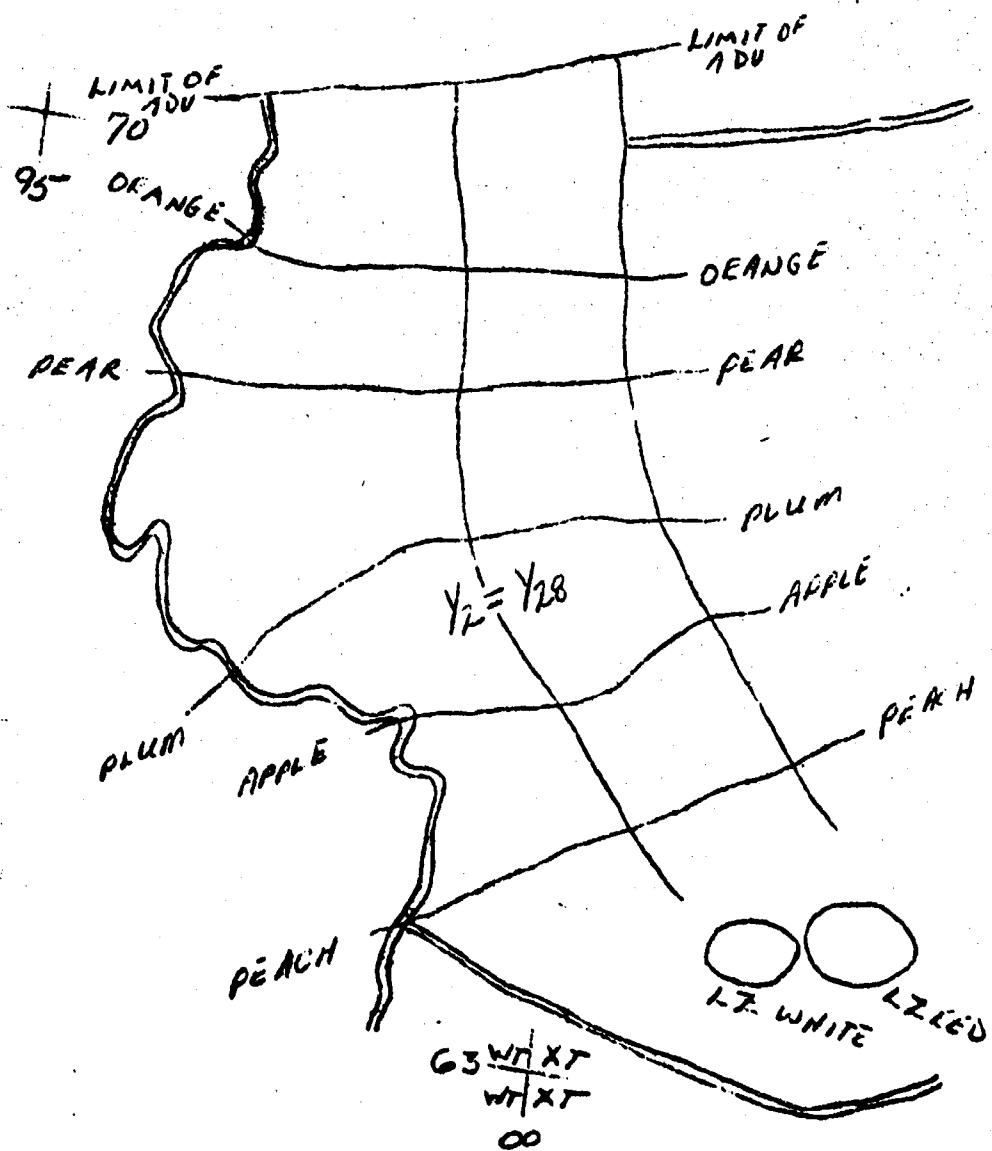
SAMUEL J. ZZREMLJ  
Major, Infantry  
Adjutant

10 Incl.  
1. Op Overlay in AO DUICK  
2. AO MERCURY)  
3. Op Overlay in AO FIAT  
4. Op Overlay in AO FIAT  
5. Hosp Base Area  
6. Base Camp  
7. Base Camp  
8. Intell Legend  
9. CS After Action Report  
10. PSY War Op

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

91 Inclosure 1 (Op Overlay in AO BDUCK) to After Action Report, 1st Bde Operation  
BIRMINGHAM, dtd 24 May 66.

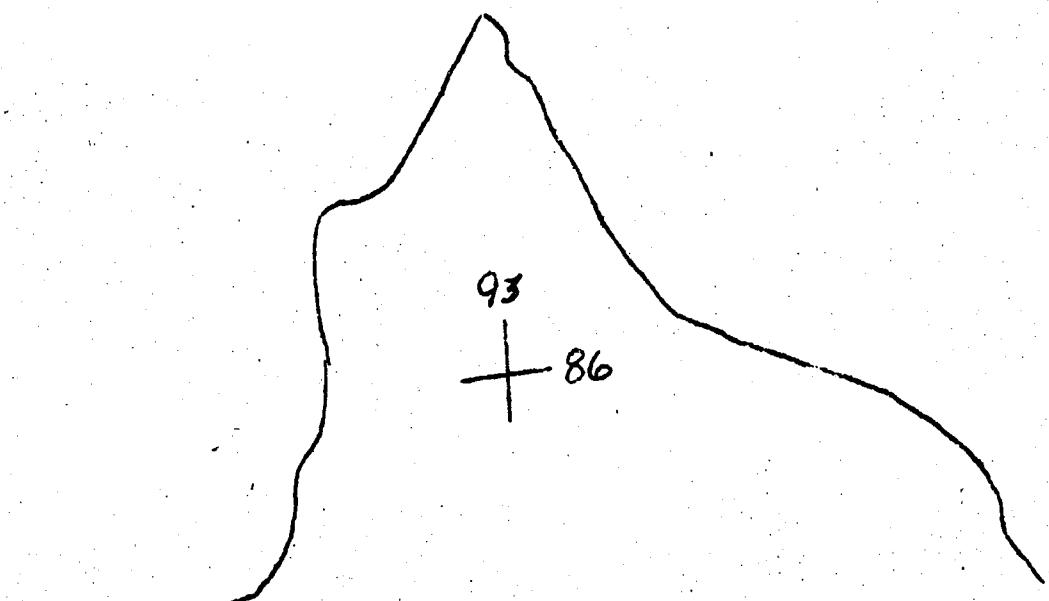


CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

Inclosure 2 (AO MERCURY) to After Action Report, 1st Bde Operation BIRMINGHAM,  
dtd 24 May 66.

92



MERCURY

90  
+ 80

Sheet 1 of 2 Sheets

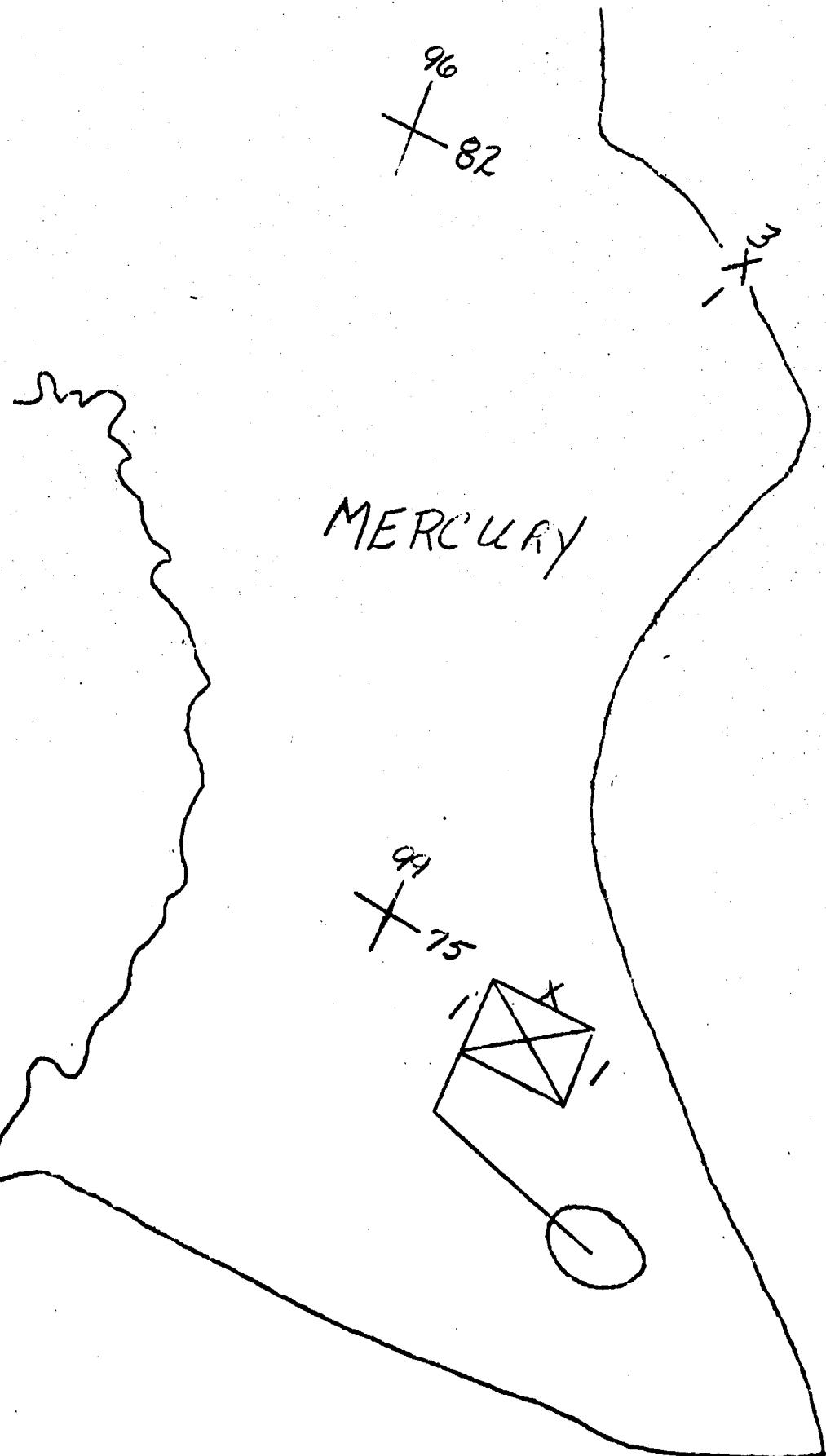
CONFIDENTIAL

Inclosure 2 Con't

CONFIDENTIAL

7

93



Sheet 2 of 2 Sheets

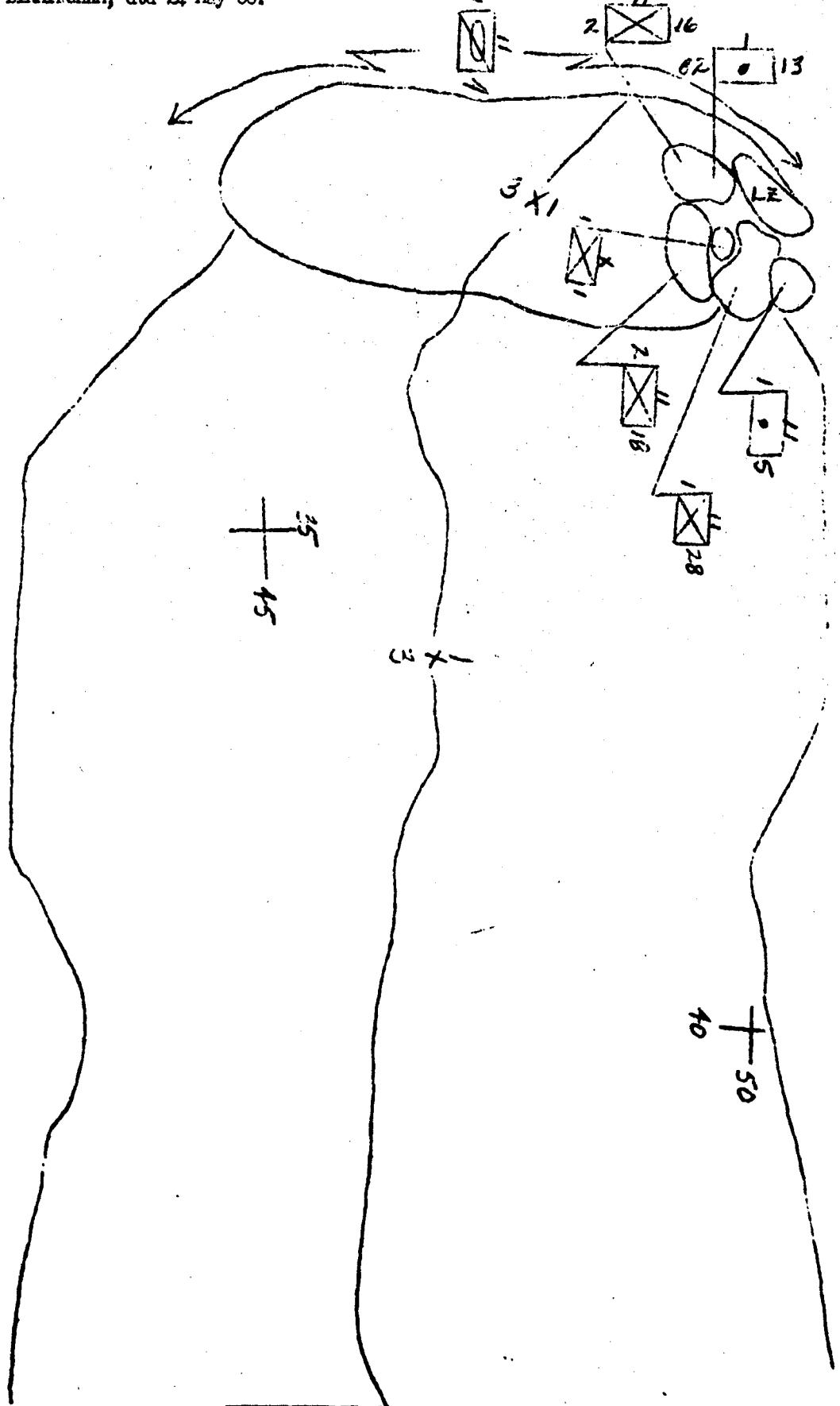
CONFIDENTIAL

(K-1)

CONFIDENTIAL

Inclosure 3 (Op Overlay in AC FLAT) to After Action Report, 1st Bde Operation  
BIRMINGHAM, dtd 24 May 66.

94

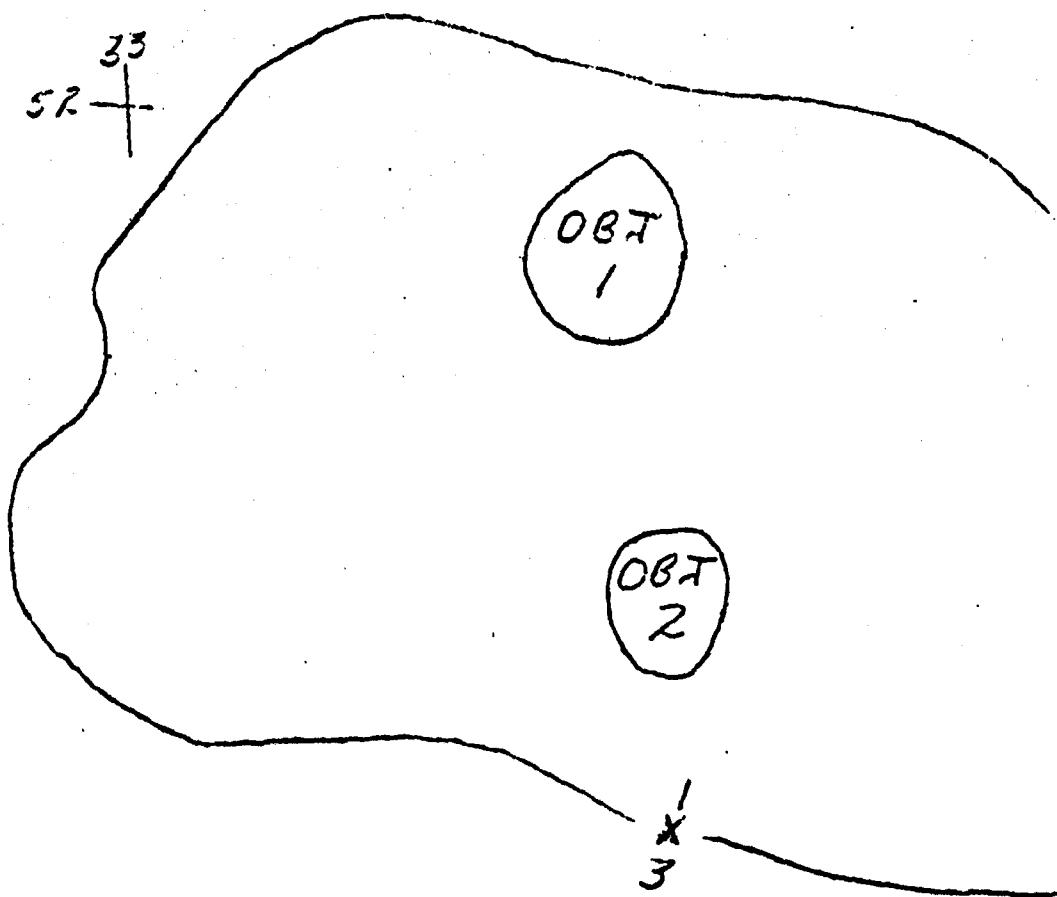


CONFIDENTIAL

*CONFIDENTIAL*

Inclosure 4 (Op Overlay in 40 FIAT) to After Action Report, 1st Bde Operation  
BIRMINGHAM, dtd 24 May 56.

95



Sheet 1 of 2 Sheets

**CONFIDENTIAL**

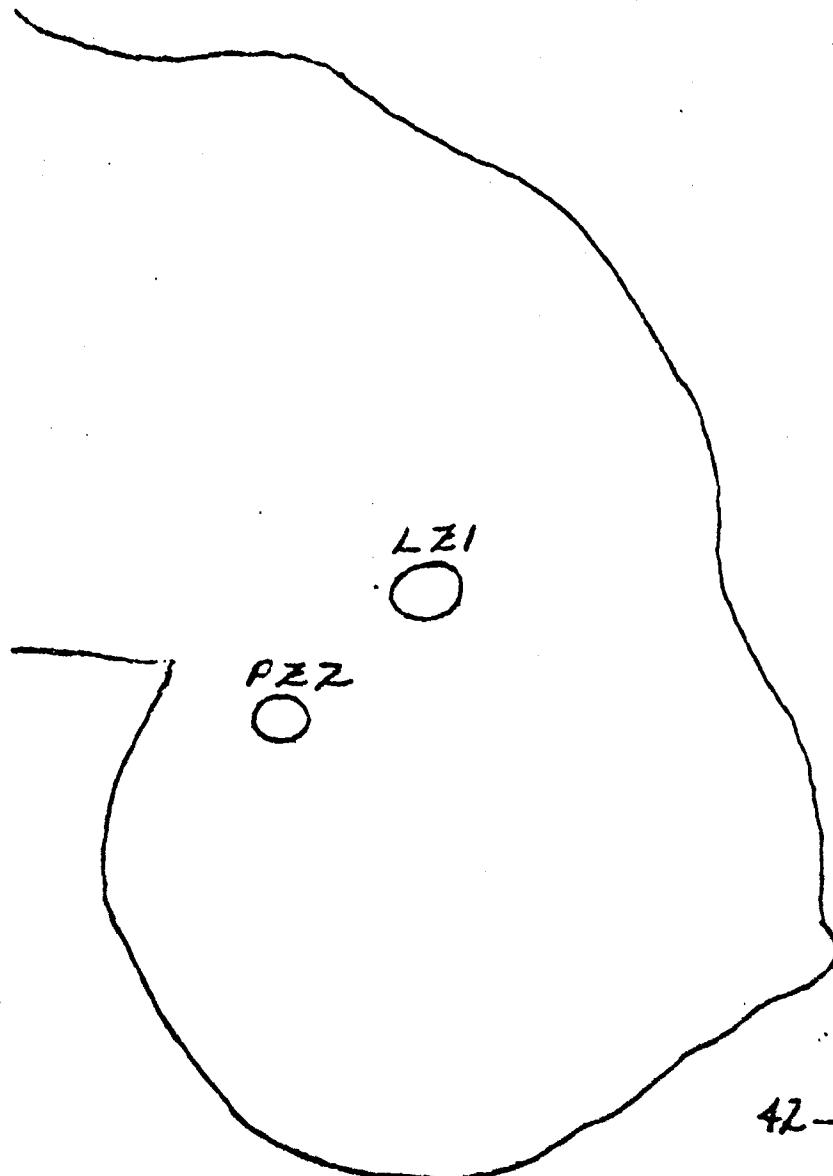
+ 42  
39

CONFIDENTIAL

Incl 4 Con't

96

42  
+ 52



48  
+ 42

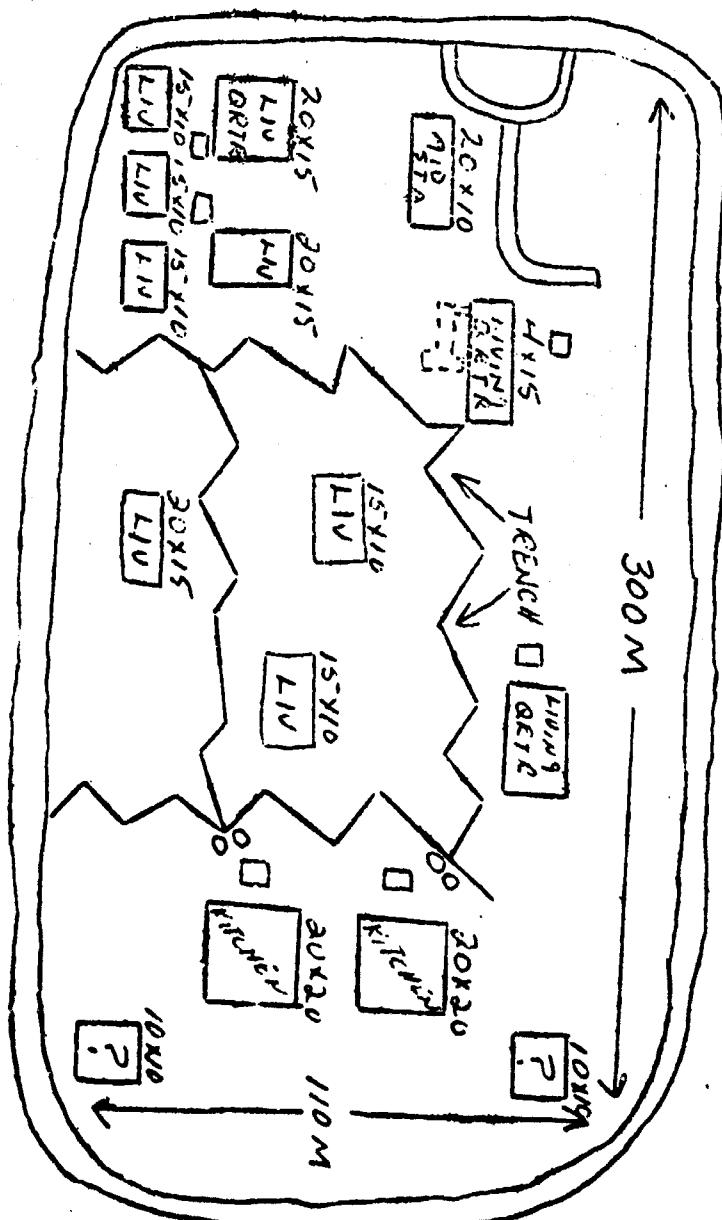
Sheet 2 of 2 Sheets

**CONFIDENTIAL**



CONFIDENTIAL

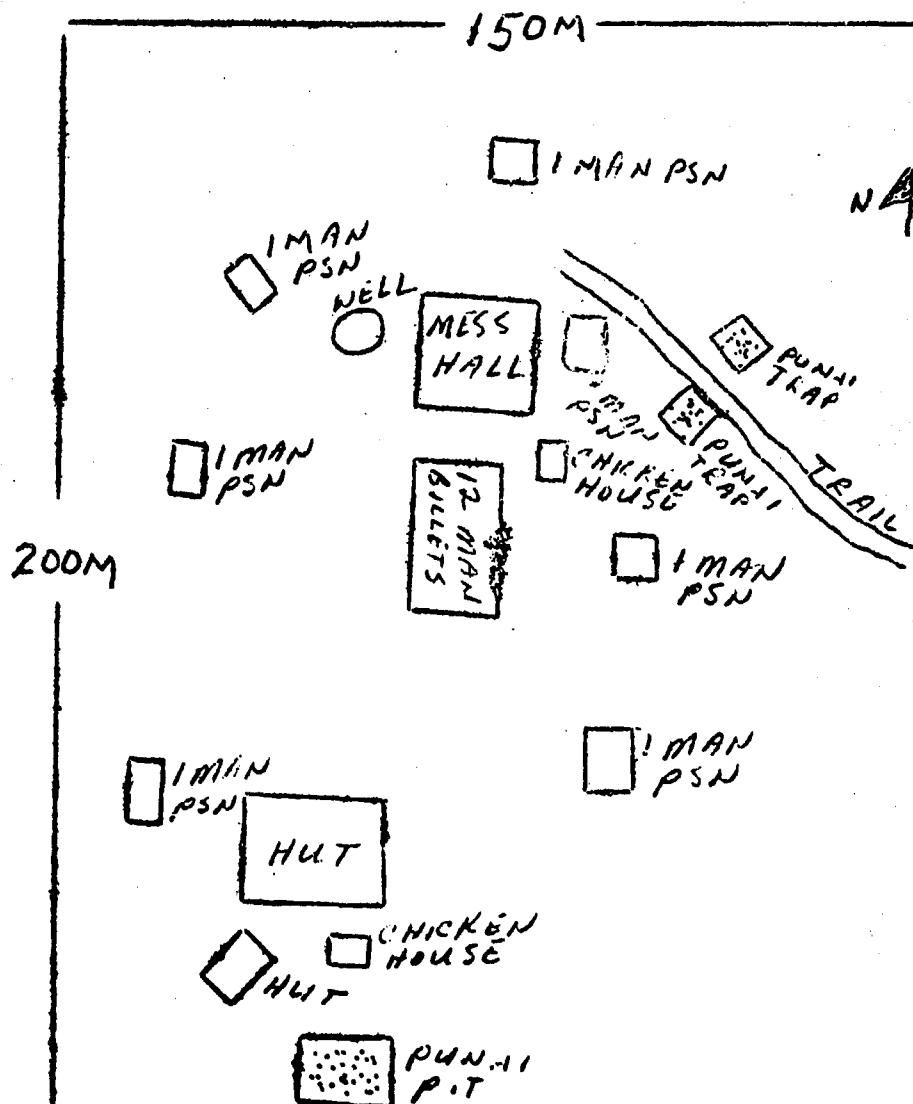
98 Inclosure 6 (Base Camp) to After Action Report, 1st Bde Operation BIRMINGHAM,  
ctd 24 May 66.



**CONFIDENTIAL**

CONFIDENTIAL

99 Inclosure 7 (Base Camp) to After Action Report, 1st Dde Operation BIRMINGHAM,  
dtd 24 May 66.



**CONFIDENTIAL**

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Inclosure 8 (Intell Legend) to After Action Report, 1st Bde Operation  
BIRMINGHAM, dtd 24 May 66.  
LEGEND FOR REPORTED INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION

100

REPORTED F/6

? DETENTION CAMP

~~XX~~ BASE CAMP

⊕ MEDICAL FACILITY

STORAGE/SUPPLY AREA

~~XX~~ PRODUCTION AREA

~~○~~ ADMINISTRATIVE FACILITY

~~XX~~ STRONG POINT

# ROAD CUT

~~XX~~ INFILTRATION POINT

~~LL~~ TRENCH

LEGEND FOR ACTUAL LOCATIONS

- 1 BASE CAMP
- 2 SUPPLY/STORAGE POINT
- 3 RICE AND/OR SALT CACHE
- 4 FUEL DUMP
- 5 DEFENSIVE AREA
- 6 HOSPITAL
- 7 OX CART FACTORY

Sheet 1 of 2 Sheets

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



*CONFIDENTIAL*

162  
Inclosure 9 (CS After Action Report) to After Action Report, 1st Inf  
Operation BIRMINGHAM, dtd 24 May 66.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS  
1ST BRIGADE, 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION  
APO U.S. Forces 96345

AVID-SP-0

24 May 1966

SUBJECT: After Action Report, Use of CS on Objective 2, 1st Brigade  
FRAG ORDER 5-66 Operation BIRMINGHAM

TO: Commanding General  
1st Infantry Division  
ATTN: G-3  
APO U.S. Forces 96345

1. PURPOSE:

- a. To test the effectiveness of Riot Control Agent (RCA) CS in the preliminary portion of the preparatory fire on a selected target area suspected to contain VC in permanent and/or semi permanent underground positions.
- b. To test the capabilities of masked troops to operate in heavily wooded areas contaminated by agent CS under long periods of time.

2. MISSION: Support the mission of 2/16 Inf to search and clear approximately one square kilometer of jungle area, (center of mass XT 374478) by use of massive concentration of RCA CS.

3. GOVERNING FACTORS:

a. Design of CS Drum Bomb:

(1) Each drum contained 80 pounds of agent CS in 10 each 8 pound sacks. Total weight of filled drum 168 pounds.

(2) Detonating charge for each drum consisted of two each M-4 bursters, a non-electrical blasting cap, a length of time fuze cut to a specific length to obtain an optimum height of burst, and a M2 non-electric fuze lighter.

b. Delivery of CS Drum Bomb:

(1) The drums were dropped manually from CH-47 helicopters, each fuze lighter was pulled individually to light the time fuze and the drum pushed out of the helicopter.

(2) Factors that determined the HOB of each drum were:

(a) Length of the time fuze

(b) Altitude of the helicopter

(c) Lag time from when the lighter is activated until the drum is dropped from the helicopter.

c. Weather Conditions:

(1) An inversion condition existed in the target area. Wind speed was approximately 1 knot in a westerly direction.

*CONFIDENTIAL*

Incl 9 Con't

**CONFIDENTIAL**

SUBJECT: After Action Report, Use of CS on Objective 2, 1st Brigade  
FRAG ORDER 5-66 Operation BIRMINGHAM

103

(2) Wind speed and direction was determined by colored smoke grenades thrown by 2/16 Inf to mark their positions as the helicopters approached the target area.

4. EXECUTION:

a. Two passes by three CH-47 helicopters, 30 drums per helicopter, were made over the target area. The first pass began at 0800, along a line from XT 372474 to XT 380480. The second pass was made at 0807 along a line from XT 387483 to XT 368477.

b. Immediately after the CS drop an airstrike was made by five Air Force fighter bombers followed by artillery to kill enemy driven above ground by the CS.

c. Troops from companies A & B, wearing masks, entered the target area at approximately 0900. Masks were kept on until 1030 when an all clear was given

(1) Troops were told to remask 5 times for periods from 5 to 15 minutes from 1030 to 1230 as contaminated areas were uncovered.

(2) Troops masked initially at approximately 0820 when CS traveling down wind reached their attack position.

(3) Total time troops were masked between 0820 to 1230 was approximately 3 hours.

5. Effects of CS Bombs in the Target Area:

a. Drums that detonated above ground caused a contamination radius extending to 75 meters around the impact area.

b. Vegetation was contaminated causing stinging to exposed skin.

c. The impact of drums was sufficiently close together to form a barrier thru which unprotected personnel could not pass.

d. Premature detonation of CS drum bombs caused CS to be detected up to an altitude of 1300 ft and 7000 meters down wind from the high air burst.

e. The affected area retained the CS contamination longer, as wind in dense jungle areas did not remove CS in air suspension thereby allowing it to settle on underbrush.

6. LESSONS LEARNED:

a. A requirement for a more accurate method of detonating at desired HOB must be developed because the HOB for individual drums varied from ground level to an altitude of 750 ft.

b. CS contamination of the target area was sufficient to cause unprotected personnel great discomfort and render them incapable of effectively defending positions.

c. Thick jungle underbrush reduces the overall effective radius of each CS bomb.

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Incl 9 Con't

**CONFIDENTIAL**

SUBJECT: After Action Report, Use of CS on Objective 2, 1st Brigade FRAG  
104  
ORDER 5-66 Operation BIRMINGHAM

d. Masked troops can operate in CS contaminated areas with minimum difficulty in movement thru the heaviest underbrush.

e. Large areas can be contaminated by this type of CS bomb forming impassable areas to unprotected personnel. The expected length of persistence of such a barrier is approximately 30 days.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS:

a. A timing device be used to obtain low, 25-50 feet, height of burst to reduce downwind loss of agent from the target area. The timing fuze used on the E-158 CS bomblet would be sufficient for this use.

b. Future targets be selected that are known enemy strongpoints. This Type CS bomb is an overkill for reconnaissance type usage.

c. Drops should not be made when troops are downwind from the target area to reduce the time masks must be worn.

d. Troops be instructed to cover as much exposed skin as possible prior to entering a CS contaminated area.

e. This type CS bomb be employed to form impassable barriers for unprotected personnel.

f. Aviation units within the operational area must be notified when CS is to be employed due to the effects caused by climatic conditions and the method of detonation presently used.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

11/11/1968  
SAMUEL J. AZZARELLI  
Major, Infantry  
Adjutant

**CONFIDENTIAL**  
Con-  
3

**CONFIDENTIAL**

105  
Inclosure 10 (S-1) to After Action Report, 1st Bde, Co,  
Operation BIRMINGHAM

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS  
1ST BRIGADE, 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION  
APO U.S. Forces 96345

AVID-SP-0

24 May 1966

Phase I 24 April 1966 PSY WAR OPERATIONS

C-47 based at Bien Hoa flew coordinates WT 9967-XT 0267-WT 9964-  
XT 0164 dropping 100,000 leaflets (50,000 #Sp-893, 25,000 #137, and 25,-  
000 #191).

Phase II 25 April 1966

C-47 based at Bien Hoa flew coordinates WT 9768-WT 0068-WT 9770-  
WT 0071 dropping 100,000 leaflets (50,000 #Sp-893, 25,000 #188, 25,000  
#191).

26 April 1966

U-10 flew coordinates WT 9767-XT 0167-XT 0169-WT 9669-WT 9671-  
WT 9771 dropping 54,000 leaflets (19,000 #Sp-893 #AH33000-AH52000, 25,-  
000 #186 and 10,000 #192).

28 April 1966

U-10 flew over coordinates XT 0464-XT 0764-XT 0672-XT 0872  
playing 1½ hours Chieu Hoi tape #8, XT 0072-XT 0275-WT 9695-WT 9873-  
WT 9773-WT 9875 dropping 20,000 #137, XT 0373 dropping 5,000 1st Div  
Good Guy Leaflets, WT 9975-WT 9977-XT 0883-XT 0881 dropping 20,000 #-  
192, XT 0976-XT 0675-XT 0670-XT 0869 dropping 19,000 Sp-893 #AH988001-  
AH100000. XT 0172 Americans are here to defeat the VC 10,000.

29 April 1966

U-10 flew over Vicinity of Lo Go dropping 40,000 #193 and playing  
3 hours of Chieu Hoi tapes #38 and #58 along Rts 13 and 22.

30 April 1966

U-10 flew coordinates WT 9965-WT 9968-XT 0565-XT 0568 dropping  
79,000 leaflets (19,000 #Sp-893 #AR247000, 20,000 #188, 20,000 #137, 20,-  
000 VC Life vs ARVN Life).

Phase III 1 May 1966

U-10 flew coordinates WT 9675-WT 9775-WT 9676-WT 9776 dropping  
25,000 #F005.

2 May 1966

U-10 flew coordinates XT 4943-XT 5345-XT 5634-XT 5835 dropping  
50,000 leaflets (40,000 #100 and 10,000 #969).

3 May 1966

Moved to 1st Bde Hqs and coordinated with 3-5.

4 May 1966 planned for 5 May 1966 sweep of Plantation.

U-10 flew over entire Ben Cui Plantation dropping 200,000 leaflets  
(50,000 #Sp-893, 50,000 #137, 60,000 #003, 40,000 No Safe Haven leaflets)  
and playing Chieu Hoi tapes for 2 hours.

**CONFIDENTIAL** *AC*

*CONFIDENTIAL*

Inclosure 1C Cont'd

106

UH1D flew over objective #2 and dropped 10,000 CS leaflets, 10,000 #137, and 5,000 #190.

5 May 1966

Moved out with 2/18, 2nd Bde in Ben Cui Plantation sweep.

6 May 1966

Returned with 2/18 and 1st Bde to Tay Ninh.

TOTAL LEAFLETS FOR OPERATION AND THEMES

Phase I 24 April	50,000 #Sp-893 Safe Conduct Passes 25,000 #137 Surrender Instructions 25,000 #191 Unable to Fight On Our Terms
Phase II 25 April	50,000 #Sp-893 Safe Conduct Passes 25,000 #186 Get Smart 25,000 #191 Unable to Fight On Our Terms
26 April	25,000 #186 Stop Fighting 10,000 #192 Rally 19,000 #Sp-893 Safe Conduct Passes
27 April	20,000 #137 Surrender Instructions 19,000 #Sp-893 Safe Conduct Passes
28 April	20,000 #137 Surrender Instructions 10,000 Americans Are Here to Defeat the VC 5,000 1st Div Good Guy 20,000 #192 Rally 19,000 #Sp-893 Safe Conduct Passes
29 April	40,000 #193 Assist the GVN
30 April	19,000 #Sp-893 Safe Conduct Passes 20,000 #186 Get Smart 20,000 #137 Surrender Instructions 20,000 VC Life Vs ARVN Life
1 May	25,000 FO05 CHIEU HOI
2 May	40,000 #100 CHIEU HOI 10,000 #969 Intelligence
5 May	50,000 #Sp-893 Safe Conduct Passes 50,000 #137 Surrender Instructions 60,000 #003 We Are Everywhere 40,000 No Safe Haven 10,000 CS 10,000 #137 Surrender Instructions 5,000 #190 Appeal to Trapped VC
TOTAL	700,000

*CONFIDENTIAL*

7  
107  
Inlosure 10 Cont'd

CONFIDENTIAL

TAPES AND THEMES

Phase II	27 April	1.5 Hrs Tape #39 Chieu Hoi
	28 April	1.5 Hrs Tape #8 Chieu Hoi
	29 April	3.0 Hrs Tape #38 and #58 Chieu Hoi
	5 May	<u>2.0</u> Hrs Tape #8 Chieu Hoi
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8.0 Hrs Tape</b>

CONFIDENTIAL

ANNEX J

AFTER ACTION REPORT 2D BDE

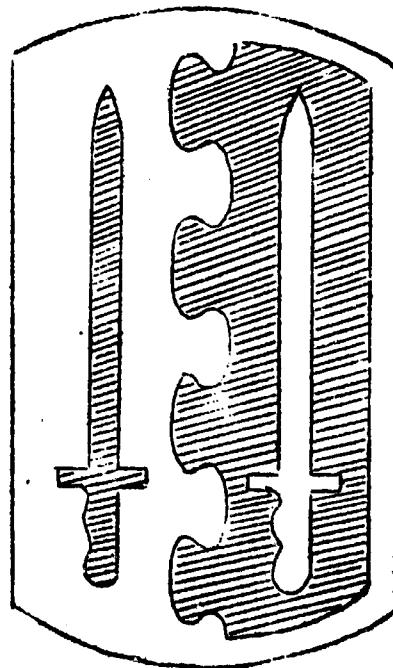
J

CONFIDENTIAL

109

# OPERATION BIRMINGHAM

2ND BRIGADE



1ST INF DIV

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS 2D BRIGADE 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION  
APO U.S. FORCES 96345

110

AVID-AMP

7 June 1966

SUBJECT: Combat After Action Report (MAC /RCS/J3/32)  
(Operation BIRMINGHAM)(U)

THRU: Commanding General  
1st Infantry Division  
ATTN: AVID-T  
APO U.S. Forces 96345

TO: Commander  
US Military Assistance Command, Vietnam  
ATTN: J321  
APO U.S. Forces 96243

1. (U) NAME AND TYPE OF OPERATION: Operation BIRMINGHAM,  
Brigade Search and Destroy Operations.

2. (U) DATES OF OPERATION: 081130H May - 151445H May 66 (2d  
Brigade participation).

3. (C) GENERAL: Operation BIRMINGHAM was initiated by Headquarters, 1st Infantry Division OPORD 8-66 (BIRMINGHAM) dated 191200H April 1966. The original plan for this operation envisaged the employment of only two Brigades, the 1st and 3rd Brigades. However, on 4 May, the 2d Brigade was ordered into the operation area in TAY NINH Province, 31st ARVN DTA. Entering combat on 8 May, the Brigade assumed command of forces at BASE IV, a critical cross-roads menaced by sizable VC forces. Once the VC threat subsided, 2d Brigade's area of operations shifted to BINH DUONG Province, 32d ARVN DTA. 2d Brigade OPLAN 6-66 issued 072300H May, became OPORD 9-66 at 091200H May 66. Operating under this order, 2d Brigade moved to LAU TIENG on 10 May. The Brigade tactical plan for this portion of the operation called for an attack SE along the east bank of the Saigon River toward the IRON BANGLE.

Throughout Operation BIRMINGHAM, the 2d Brigade maintained a Rapid Reaction Force that could be employed in the event an element of the Brigade made contact with a major VC force.

The operation was conducted in six phases. See paragraph 6. During these phases, 2d Brigade was never out of range of its DS Artillery, which provided continuous support during the operation. 2d Brigade participation in Operation BIRMINGHAM was conducted under 1st Infantry Division control. Operations were in conjunction with 3rd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, conducting similar type operations in the same general area.

- a. Reporting Officers: Cmrd A.E. Milloy, Cmdg
- b. Task Organization: (Initial)
  - 1/2 Inf: Lt Col R.L. Prillaman, Cmdg
  - 2/16 Inf: Lt Col W.S. Hathaway, Cmdg
  - 1/18 Inf: Lt Col E.R.M. Norton, Cmdg
  - 1/28 Inf: Lt Col H. Dene

CONFIDENTIAL

111 7  
CONFIDENTIAL

2/18 Inf: Lt Col H. McCrystal, Cmdg

1/4 Cav: Lt Col L. Lewane, Cmdg

8/3 Arty: Lt Col J.R. McGiffert II, Cmdg

1/5 Arty (DS)(Reinf): Lt Col D.C. Rogers, Cmdg

Brigade Troops:

HHC 2d Bde (-)

2d Plt, 1st MP Co

4. (C) INTELLIGENCE:

a. Available information prior to commencement of Operation BIRMINGHAM indicated that a VC buildup was in progress within Zone C. The 271, 272 and the 273rd VC Regiments were reported, from various sources, to have moved from Zone D to unknown locations in Zone C. COSVIN Headquarters was also reported in the operational area. Other information consisted primarily of reported enemy installations and fortifications. All intelligence information initially came from G-2, 1st Infantry Division.

b. Enemy Situation: No major engagements between large VC units occurred during this operation. The VC conducted harassing and defensive tactics, employing mines, booby traps and sniper activity to protect their installations. Significant installations discovered during the operation included:

(1) Recon Platoon, 1/2 Infantry at 091440H May, located a base camp/commo center vic XT297697. Two rifles, a PPG 40, 40mm rocket launcher and a document containing uncoded communications information were captured. The complex also contained a radio of unknown nomenclature believed to have been destroyed by SA fire.

(2) C 2/18 Infantry located a VC base camp at 120900H May vic XT550391 containing a weapons cache of 23 US Cal .45 pistols (pistols were wrapped in water proof paper marked "To South America"), 25 P38 pistols, 19 Cal .22 single shot Russian Rifles, 2 Cal .22 magazine loaded Czech rifles, 92 mines, grenades and booby traps and 250 lbs blocks of TNT. 25 bicycles and 150 uniforms were also discovered. Documents in the complex indicated the camp was occupied by D963 Bn which changed its name to Group 48 in 1965.

c. Fortifications: No significant fortifications were found.

d. General: The area contained various small supply caches, generally located near populated areas and well defined trails and streams. These appeared to be defended by guerrillas or local force units acting as caretakers. Two villages, vic XT530580 and XT585340, were believed to be under VC control along with the plantation vic XT5439. One VCC stated that the plantation owner was a VC who provided jobs during the day for the VC and gave them missals at night. The majority of the surrounding populace seemed to be sympathetic towards the VC.

e. Psy War/Civil Affairs: Civic action given on Operation BIRMINGHAM was primarily in the medical field. Six medical patrols and one large sick call were conducted for a total of 1,350 persons receiving symptomatic treatment. Psychological operations were conducted during the seizure and search of the village of BEN SUC (XT580335). Airborne loudspeaker appeals were used to move the entire population (approximately 700) out of the village, to facilitate the search. Once assembled, the populace was treated by the medcap team and spoken to by the Vietnamese Province Chief, BING DUONG Province. The 3-5, TRI TAM District, assisted

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

2/18 Inf: Lt Col H. McCrystal, Cmdg

1/4 Cav: Lt Col L. Lewane, Cmdg

8/3 Arty: Lt Col J.R. McGiffert II, Cmdg

1/5 Arty (DS)(Reinf): Lt Col D.C. Rogers, Cmdg

Brigade Troops:

HMC 2d Bde (-)

2d Plt, 1st MP Co

4. (C) INTELLIGENCE:

a. Available information prior to commencement of Operation BIRMINGHAM indicated that a VC buildup was in progress within Zone C. The 271, 272 and the 273rd VC Regiments were reported, from various sources, to have moved from Zone D to unknown locations in Zone C. COSVIN Headquarters was also reported in the operational area. Other information consisted primarily of reported enemy installations and fortifications. All intelligence information initially came from G-2, 1st Infantry Division.

b. Enemy Situation: No major engagements between large VC units occurred during this operation. The VC conducted harassing and defensive tactics, employing mines, booby traps and sniper activity to protect their installations. Significant installations discovered during the operation included:

(1) Recon Platoon, 1/2 Infantry at 091440H May, located a base camp/commo center vic XT297697. Two rifles, a PPG 40, 40mm rocket launcher and a document containing uncoded communications information were captured. The complex also contained a radio of unknown nomenclature believed to have been destroyed by SA fire.

(2) C 2/18 Infantry located a VC base camp at 120900H May vic XT550391 containing a weapons cache of 23 US Cal .45 pistols (pistols were wrapped in water proof paper marked "To South America"), 25 P38 pistols, 19 Cal .22 single shot Russian Rifles, 2 Cal .22 magazine loaded Czech rifles, 92 mines, grenades and booby traps and 250 lbs blocks of TNT. 25 bicycles and 150 uniforms were also discovered. Documents in the complex indicated the camp was occupied by D963 Bn which changed its name to Group 48 in 1965.

c. Fortifications: No significant fortifications were found.

d. General: The area contained various small supply caches, generally located near populated areas and well defined trails and streams. These appeared to be defended by guerrilla or local force units acting as caretakers. Two villages, vic XT530580 and XT585310, were believed to be under VC control along with the plantation vic XT5439. One VCC stated that the plantation owner was a VC who provided jobs during the day for the VC and gave them miss ons at night. The majority of the surrounding populace seemed to be sympathetic towards the VC.

e. Psy War/Civil Affairs: Civic action given on Operation BIRMINGHAM was primarily in the medical field. Six medical patrols and one large sick call were conducted for a total of 1,350 persons receiving symptomatic treatment. Psychological operations were conducted during the seizure and search of the village of BEN SUC (XT580335). Airborne loudspeaker appeals were used to move the entire population (approximately 700) out of the village, to facilitate the search. Once assembled, the populace was treated by the medevac team and spoken to by the Vietnamese Province Chief, BING DUONG Province. The 8-5, TRI TAM District, assisted

CONFIDENTIAL

**CONFIDENTIAL**

the effort. Coordination was achieved through MACV Advisory Team #91 at DAU TIENG. An extensive printed media, psychological campaign was conducted in support of the Brigades action. The leaflet drops were controlled and supervised by the Division G-5 and attached Psy War units.

**5. (C) MISSIONS:**

a. 2d Brigade assumes command of forces at BASE IV, defends BASE IV, prepares for operations to north (8-9 May).

b. 2d Brigade conducts cordon and search, search and destroy operations vic BASE II and SE to Objective 21 (10-15 May).

**6. (C) CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS:**

a. Maneuver: This operation was conducted in six phases as follows:

Phase I: A verbal order issued on 4 May, initiated this phase of Operation BIRMINGHAM. On 5-6 May, Brigade Headquarters (-) and 1/18 Inf moved to BASE I located at TAY NINH airfield and began planning for Brigade's deployment in Operation BIRMINGHAM.

Phase II: A verbal order issued on 8 May, sent the 2d Brigade into combat at BASE IV, a critical crossroads 15 miles NE of TAY NINH. Once operational, the Brigade assumed OPCON of four Battalions and began patrolling extensively from this site. A co-located fifth Battalion (ARVN) worked with the Brigade in close coordination and co-operation.

Phase III: OPORD 9-66 and FRAG O 1 to OPORD 9-66 were published on 10 May 66. Bde conducted an administrative airmobile move to DAU TIENG airfield. On arrival, two Battalions moved to assembly areas in zones, a third Battalion remained vic of airfield as Brigade Rapid Reaction Force.

Phase IV: On 11 May, two Battalions attacked SE in zone to seize Objectives ALPHA and BRAVO, destroying VC forces, facilities and bases enroute. The third Battalion remained as the Brigade Rapid Reaction Force.

Phase V: FRAG O 2 to OPORD 9-66. On 13 May, two Battalions continued to attack SE to seize Objectives 21 and 21A. A third Battalion was employed as the Brigade Rapid Reaction Force.

Phase VI: FRAG O 3 to OPORD 9-66. 2d Brigade elements, redeployed from Operational Area by air to PHU LOI where they boarded trucks for a motor march to BEARCAT base camp.

b. Fire Support: Fire support was provided by Artillery, TAC Air and UTTs. These were used for on call fires, and also to interdict VC concentrations and routes of withdrawal. The direct support artillery battalion was reinforced by a 155mm/8" battery during a portion of the operation. As often as possible, the Brigade maintained at least one helicopter fire team on standby at the Brigade CP to escort resupply and Dust Off missions, provide air cover for convoy moves and conduct experimental night recon flights with the aid of Starlight Scopes.

**7. (C) EXECUTION:**

a. Chronology:

19 April - 2d Brigade received at Division OPORD 8-66 (BIRMINGHAM). 2/16 and 2/18 Inf, Brigade units to participate, began planning.

23 April - 2/16 Inf (1 Co attached to 1/4 Cav upon arrival 1st Bde), 2/18 Inf (attached to 3rd Bde upon arrival), and B Stry, 1/7 Arty (attached to 2/18 Inf) departed base camp for Operation BIRMINGHAM.

**CONFIDENTIAL**

CONFIDENTIAL

10  
4 May - At 040815H, 2d Brigade received verbal orders from Division to cease operations and be prepared to move to BIRMINGHAM AO. At 041120H, HHC 2d Brigade and 1/18 Inf were ordered to move by air to TAY NINH WEST airfield on 5 May and 6 May respectively. Planning for movement continued throughout the day.

5 May - Beginning at 050835H, HHC 2d Bde was lifted to BIRMINGHAM AO by C-123 aircraft. A quartering party from 1/18 Inf accompanied this move. At 051155H, final elements closed TAY NINH WEST. HHC 2d Brigade occupied a sector of the perimeter defense around TAY NINH WEST airfield (Division Base). 2d Brigade began planning for employment in subsequent phases of Operation BIRMINGHAM.

6 May - 1/18 Inf airlifted to BIRMINGHAM AO. Upon arrival, Battalion was released to Division Control. 2d Brigade was notified that 2/16 Inf and 1/5 Arty would come under its operational control for next phase of the operation. Planning continued. At 061530H, Brigade CP left TAY NINH WEST and closed to new location ESE of TAY NINH WEST at 061705H. At 061700H, 2/16 Inf, 1/2 Inf and 1/5 Arty were placed under OPCON 2d Brigade. At 061800H, Brigade received Division FRAG O 46-66 (BIRMINGHAM). At 062000H, 2d Brigade published OPLAN 5-66 (BIRMINGHAM), a contingency plan to reinforce TF HOLLINGSWORTH during operations near the Cambodian Border.

7 May - At 070800H, 1/2 Inf reverted to OPCON 3rd Brigade. Throughout the day, the Brigade continued planning for future operations. At 072300H, 2d Brigade published OPLAN 6-66 (BIRMINGHAM), a contingency plan for operations SE in the MICHELIN Plantation Area.

8 May - To counter VC threat NE of TAY NINH, 2d Brigade was ordered to move the 2/18 and 2/16 Inf to BASE IV and assume command of US forces there. 2/18 Inf began moving to BASE IV at 081230H, closing there at 081400H. Upon arrival of 2d Brigade Command Group at 081430H, 2d Brigade assumed control of 1/2 Inf and 1/4 Cav located at BASE IV. Close coordination and cooperation with the 7th Battalion, ARVN Airborne Brigade, also located at BASE IV, was effected. Movement of the 2/16 Inf was delayed until after extraction of 3rd Brigade from LZ to the north. At 081725H, 2/16 Inf (-) commenced movement by helicopter to blocking positions N of SOUI DA. C 2/16 moved to position vic of Brigade CP to assist in the defense of the Brigade CP. Artillery support for operations around BASE IV was provided by 8/6 Artillery (DS), located within BASE IV, and 1/5 Artillery (DS-Reinforcing), located at the Artillery Base. Brigade CP moved to position east of SOUI DA. At 081600H, Brigade received FRAG O 47-66 (BIRMINGHAM), directing it to conduct search and destroy operations in the MICHELIN Plantation Area.

9 May - During the evening of 8-9 May, maneuver Battalions of 2d Brigade defended their sector of the perimeter around BASE IV, ambushing extensively. At first light, Battalions sent out platoon and company sized patrols within their AO. Patrols from 2/18 Inf, 2/16 Inf, ARVN 7th Bn and 1/4 Cav ranged throughout their areas without contact. In operations NE, Recon 1/2 Inf located a small VC village and later made contact with VC elements in a jungle communications complex. The complex was destroyed. Recon 1/2 Inf suffered 1 KIA and 3 WIA in this action while killing 1 VC (BC), capturing 1 carbine, 1 recoilless rifle and 1 SMG. Fighting at times was at very close range. Recon maintained contact with the VC for 80 minutes. Meanwhile, B 1/2 Inf was called upon to maneuver SW to NE and engage the retreating VC on their flank. Before elements of 1/2 Inf could link up contact had been broken by the VC. B and Recon 1/2 Inf then joined together and continued to patrol their sector throughout the night without further contact. During the day, the 7th ARVN Battalion was airlifted from BASE IV and sectors of responsibility within the perimeter were adjusted. 8/6 Artillery, which had been DS to 2d Brigade, moved during the day to the Artillery Base and reverted to a GS mission. 1/5 Artillery remained DS from the Artillery Base. At night, Battalions established 11 ambush sites without contact. At 091200H, OPLAN 6-66 (BIRMINGHAM)

CONFIDENTIAL

**CONFIDENTIAL**

HAM) became OPORD 9-66 and FRAG O 1, reflecting attachment to 1/2 Inf for operations in MICHELIN Area, was issued.

114

10 May - After ambushing extensively all night without contact, 2d Bde units retracted their ambush sites at first light and began preparing for an airmobile move to DAU TIENG airfield and subsequent offensive action to SE. By 100720H, Recon and B 1/2 Inf, which had continued to patrol NE during the evening without contact, had returned to BASE IV. With 1/4 Cav securing the PZ, 2d Brigade units commenced movement to DAU TIENG. Upon departure of the last helicopter from BASE IV, 1/4 Cav returned to Division control. Upon arrival at DAU TIENG, 1/2 Inf received a mission change and reverted to OPCON 3rd Brigade. By 10-0930H, 2/18 Inf and 2/16 Inf had closed at DAU TIENG airfield and had moved SE in zones, conducting detailed searches along their routes into RON positions. At 101600H, 1/18 Inf, which had been OPCON 1st Infantry Division, reverted to 2d Brigade control and began to move to DAU TIENG closing there at 101710H. Upon arrival, they assumed mission of Brigade Rapid Reaction Force, vic DAU TIENG airfield.

11 May - Commencing at 110001H, 2/16 Inf moved from RON position and surrounded the village of BIN TRANH. At 110615H, Battalion began a search of the village, collecting a total of 55 villagers. After screening the villagers, 14 of them were considered VC suspects, and evacuated. While searching the village, Battalion drew several rounds of SA fire from a treeline to the south. At 111140H, 2/16 attacked SE towards Objective BRAVO, securing it at 111610H. Battalion established RON position and called for resupply. During resupply, Battalion received SA fire from S & SE along with approximately 12 rifle grenades sustaining 3 WIA. Gun ships were dispatched and mortar fires placed on the source of this fire. Ambushes were then sent out by all 2/16 elements. While emplacing an ambush north of THAN AN, C 2/16 engaged an unknown number of VC, suffering 5 US WIA. Enemy casualties were unknown. In action to the east of 2/16 Inf, 2/18 Inf ambushed extensively during the night of 10-11 May and attacked SE at 110800H May 66, towards Objective ALPHA. During the day they located and destroyed 4.125 tons of rice and an old base camp. By 111510H, they had secured Objective ALPHA and commenced active patrol activity in the vicinity. Throughout the day, 1/18 Inf remained Brigade Rapid Reaction Force.

12 May - During the night of 11-12 May, 2d Brigade units established 12 ambush sites. One of these ambushes made VC contact on two separate occasions. Under cover of darkness, 2/16 Inf surrounded the village of THANH AN, completing encirclement at 120555H. Search of the village began at first light. At 120620H, A 2/16 received SA fire south of the village, suffering 5 WIA. Fire was returned with unknown results. At 120730H, Bn received SA fire from north of the village. US casualties from this sniping were 1 KIA and 1 WIA. Gun ships were sent out to the area but spasmodic sniping continued throughout the morning resulting in 10 additional WIA. The intensity of this fire ordinarily increased when Med Evac helicopters landed to extract wounded but by 121200H, all casualties had been extracted. Within the village, 2/16 Inf found a uniform factory with 100 black uniforms in various stages of assembly, 75 tons of rice, some tunnels and trenches, some medical supplies, and many pro-VC signs. At 121355H, the District Advisor, District representatives, a local Pay War Team and CA representatives of C-5 departed by helicopter from THANH AN where they established a collection and screening station for villagers. After assisting in screening 200-250 villagers, 2/16 moved into a series of ambush sites around the village of THANH AN.

During the day, 2/18 Inf conducted saturation patrolling to the south, east and north in zones. By 120700H, all companies had established patrol bases from which to conduct operations for the day. Patrols reported small encounters with VC during the day, killing 1 VC (BC) and wounding 1 (Prob). At 120900H, C 2/18 came upon a large weapon's cache at which fuel, rice, bicycles, medical supplies, miscellaneous documents and two ampmans were also located. Later B 2/18 Inf patrol was hit by a claymore set off in a tree. The patrol suffered 2 US WIA, a third US

**CONFIDENTIAL**

115

CONFIDENTIAL

WIA resulted from subsequent sniper firing. Throughout the day, 1/18 Inf remained at DAU TIENG as Brigade Rapid Reaction Force, on two hour alert for employment as Division Rapid Reaction Force and at various times on alert to assist in the evacuation of downed aircraft.

13 May - During the night of 12-13 May, 2d Brigade units established ambushes vicinity RON positions. In the morning, Brigade assumed OPCON of 1/28 Inf and transported them into positions vicinity Objective BRAVO, airlifted 1/18 Inf into positions of 2/18 Inf, and extracted 2/18 Inf back to BEARCAT base camp. During the day, 1/5 Arty (-) Base and Brigade CP also displaced to new locations north of THANH AN. At 131130H, 2/16 Inf which had secured an LZ for the arrival of 1/28 Inf continued their attack SE in zone. At 131307H, lead elements suffered 1 WIA from a claymore and made contact with an unknown number of VC. At 131720H, a small arms cache was located. VC sniper activities hindered the Battalions movement throughout the day. At 131130H, 1/18 Inf began attacking SE in zone. At 131435H, 1/18 Inf made contact with unknown number of VC suffering 3 WIA from claymores and sniper activity. An Air Force Evac helicopter was requested but came under heavy sniper fire as it hovered over the pick-up area and began to lower a hoist. The Air Force Evac helicopter then aborted the evacuation attempt. Wounded were then taken to a distant clearing and evacuated by team leader of UTT fire team. Sniping activity directed against Battalions continued throughout the afternoon. Throughout the day, 1/28 Inf patrolled extensively in THANH AN area without contact. At night, however, their perimeter was probed by VC force of undetermined size on two separate occasions. Results unknown.

14 May - Under cover of darkness, 2/16 Inf attacked SE to surround the village of BEN SUC. While moving into position to search the village, a man in A 2/16 Inf Command Group stepped on a mine, 7 WIA resulted. By 140720H, Battalion had surrounded the village, which was protected by an earthen berm, barbed wire and a mine field. Periodic SA and grenade fire were received from VC within. At 140830H, a Psy War team arrived and began broadcasting for the inhabitants to evacuate the village. The Psy War effort was successful and villagers evacuated BEN SUC as ordered. At 141005H, a village elder led a patrol to the entrance of a tunnel network, protected by a fortified bunker. A brief fire fight ensued in which the patrol suffered 2 US WIA. The tunnel network was explored for several hours without results. At 141025H, the sweep of the village began. No arms or supply caches were found, but 29 emplaced mines were discovered. At 141600H, Battalion moved to RON position. At 140800H, 1/18 Inf attacked SE to surround village of SUOI CAT. Lead elements discovered two small base camps/food caches enroute and on one occasion made fleeting contact with a small VC force. By 141515H, encirclement of village was complete, but search revealed village was partly burned and sparsely inhabited. No arms or supply caches were found. During encirclement, A 1/18 killed 1 VC (Prob). Battalion began moving to RON positions in late afternoon, closing there before dark. Enroute, the Battalion discovered a base camp and made contact with three VC. While pursuing them, lead elements were hit by a claymore. 2 US WIA resulted. At 140310H, A 1/18 engaged 2 VC, killing one (Prob). 1/28 Inf patrolled vigorously around Objective BRAVO during the day locating three extensive tunnel networks and destroying 15 sampans, a large wheat and rice cache and considerable kerosene. Contact with VC throughout the day was fleeting.

15 May - During the evening of 14-15 May, 2d Brigade units conducted local patrolling and established ambushes vicinity Objectives BRAVO and 21. C 1/28 Inf patrol suffered 1 KIA from friendly artillery during the night. Commencing at 150800H, 1/18 and 2/16 Inf were extracted from a PZ vic Objective 21 and airlifted to PHU LOI. From PHU LOI they moved by motor march back to base camp. Brigade Headquarters (-) was airlifted from PZ vic Objective BRAVO to PHU LOI and from there also moved by motor march back to base camp. 1/5 Arty (-) and 1/28 Inf, being 1st Brigade units, were airlifted directly to PHUOC VIMH. During the day, 2/16 and 1/18 Inf had no VC contact. However, 1/28 Inf, which

CONFIDENTIAL

**CONFIDENTIAL**

116  
remained on Objective BRAVO until almost 151700H, encountered VC on three separate occasions, capturing 1 VC, killing 1 VC (BC) and wounded 1 VC (Prob). Miscellaneous supplies were also discovered by this Battalion during the day. At 151610H, the Battalion began airlift to PHUOC VINH by UH-1D, CH-47 and CH-3 aircraft. Upon arriving at PHUOC VINH, the Battalion reverted to OPCON 1st Brigade.

8. (C) SUPPORTING FORCES:

a. Artillery: 1/5 Arty, which was in Direct Support of the 2d Brigade throughout this operation, operated effectively. On one occasion, this battalion was reinforced by an 8" Battery from 8/6 Arty.

b. Air Force: TAC Air was employed on both preplanned and immediate targets. The Brigade ALO processed all air requests for the Brigade and encountered no problems. The effects of TAC Air strikes were hard to gauge, however, as troops usually did not enter all the areas struck. Air Force rescue helicopters with winches were employed on one occasion without success as the helicopter was hit by SA fire as he came into pick-up a casualty.

c. Army Aviation: On four separate occasions, Battalions moved by means of army aviation. Movements made were well coordinated and effectively executed.

9. (C) RESULTS:

a. Friendly Losses:

KIA: 3

WIA: 35

b. Enemy Losses:

KIA: 3 (BC)

KIA: 21 (Prob)

WIA: 4 (Prob)

VCC: 1

VCS: 16

Ralliers: 1

Weapons: 80

TNT Charges: 250

Miscellaneous SA Ammo

Booby Traps: 45

Grenades: 100

Bicycles: 25 & parts for making 75-100 more

Base Camps: 9

Huts: 3

Tunnel Complexes: 4

Several Trenches, Bunkers & Foxholes

1 Commo Center w/1 radio set, 1 headset & 18' wire

Rice: 155.975 Tons

Tobacco: 1.5 Tons

Salt: 15 $\frac{1}{2}$  Tons

Peanuts: 200lbs

250 Uniforms (Black)

1 Harness

1,110 gallons Fuel

Kerosene: 10 gal

10 X 40 sheets of tin

24 qts Duplicating Ink

1,056 Flashlight Batteries

Miscellaneous clothing, medical supplies, equipment and documents.

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**CONFIDENTIAL**

10. (C) ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS:

a. Personnel:

(1) Strength 23 April 1966 to 4 May 1966:

<u>Unit:</u>	<u>Rear Detachments:</u>	<u>Combat Strength:</u>					
		Prior to Opns:		After Opns:			
	0	WO	EM	0	WO	EM	
2/16 Inf	209 to 170	31	1	809	37	1	866
2/18 Inf	190 to 258	36	2	823	39	2	837
B 1/7 Arty	10 to 15	41	1	434	41	5	443

(2) Strength 5 May 1966 to 15 May 1966:

<u>Unit:</u>	<u>Rear Detachments:</u>	<u>Combat Strength:</u>					
		Prior to Opns:		After Opns:			
	0	WO	EM	0	WO	EM	
HHC 2d Bde	86 to 94	25	4	130	28	6	131
2/16 Inf	218 to 259	37	1	871	37	1	904
1/18 Inf	355 to 419	37		883	37	2	914
2/18 Inf	236 to 307	38	2	836	39	2	878
B 1/7 Arty	9 to 10	16	0	195	17	0	197

b. Administrative Plans: Administrative plans and procedures continue to be adequate.

c. Logistics: The Brigade Trains consisted of the Brigade S-4 section (-) and attached Battalion Trains.

(1) Medical: The forward clearing station was operated by Co B, 1st Medic Battalion with attached elements of the 93d Evacuation and 3rd Surgical Hospital.

(2) Maintenance: Contact teams of signal, automotive, armament and small arms, provided by Headquarters and Co A 701st Maintenance Battalion, were adequate.

(3) Supply: Prescribed loads carried were considered adequate.

(4) Transportation: Resupply within the Brigade was conducted from the Division Log Base utilizing air delivery techniques. Items not available from the Division Log Base were delivered to the Log Base from Base Camp utilizing CV-2 aircraft.

(5) Class III: All Class III requirements were fulfilled on a 24 hour basis by the Division S&T Battalion.

11. (C) SPECIAL EQUIPMENT AND TECHNIQUES:

a. Battalions frequently uncovered sizeable caches of rice and other foodstuffs in the jungle. Because of the size and location of these caches, it was often impossible to extract them by helicopter and they had to be destroyed in place. Under these conditions, adequate destruction of rice and foodstuffs was usually time consuming and required excessive amounts of conventional explosives or special equipment. One unit of this Brigade reported that, when time is critical, detonation of a claymore mine buried close to the bottom of the rice facing up, spread the rice over a sufficiently wide area that the cache was considered destroyed.

**CONFIDENTIAL**

CONFIDENTIAL

118

b. Evacuation of wounded personnel continued to be a problem. Once contact had been made with the VC and the first US casualty taken, the ground commander was all too frequently faced with the choice of allowing the VC to break contact so that he could call in a med evac helicopter, or using litter teams to carry casualties forward while attempting to maintain contact. By insisting that litters be carried by company medics, company commanders within this Brigade were able to maintain contact with the VC for longer periods of time after they had received some casualties. This did not mean that they delayed calling a med evac helicopter, rather it meant that they continued moving while waiting for the helicopter to arrive in the area.

12. (C) COMMANDERS ANALYSIS: An analysis of the statistical results of 2d Brigade operations is not truly indicative of the impact of operations in the BIRMINGHAM AO. While the amount of supplies which were destroyed by this Brigade is imposing, the operation was even more successful in light of the following:

a. In Phase III, the 2d Brigade reacted quickly to a changing situation and stopped the planned attack of three VC Regiments in an area NE of TAY NINH.

b. In Phases IV and V, the Brigade deployed rapidly to DAU TIENG. From there it moved southerly into an area never before searched by US forces. Since GVN forces had not been in this area for over a year, 2d Bde operations along the east bank of the SAIGON River were able to re-establish government contact with the village of BEN SUC.

13. (C) CONCLUSIONS AND LESSONS LEARNED:

a. Conclusions:

(1) While relatively successful, search and destroy operations in the BIRMINGHAM AO would have been even more successful had battalions been able to return to areas they had rapidly passed through and conduct more extensive searches.

(2) The rapid displacement of DS Artillery by helicopter to areas inaccessible by air contributed significantly to the 2d Brigade's freedom of movement.

b. Lessons Learned:

(1) Green troops have a tendency to fire too soon when observing a target. They must be indoctrinated to let the enemy get in close with the idea of a first round kill.

(2) When a break is planned during an operation, battalions should, if feasible, have its own mess halls. Two per Battalions would suffice.

(3) One hot meal each day would have a tremendous impact on the morale of troops and provide a break in the steady diet of "C" rations.

(a) Hot meals should be planned prior to each operation to insure proper accountability for rations drawn.

(b) A minimum of two messes should be utilized to prepare the meal. Unit mess personnel should accompany the meal to insure proper distribution. Mess personnel remain overnight and go out on the morning extraction.

(c) The use of paper plates and plastic spoons reduces the cleaning requirement in the field and at Trains.

(4) Heavier trains are required for sustained operations

CONFIDENTIAL

119

CONFIDENTIAL

in the field. Battalion S-4's should be able to draw from S&T in the field to replace lost and/or damaged equipment. One of the most difficult problems is need of a laundry facility to provide a steady rotation of clothes for the units in the field. This should be located within the Trains area.

(5) Airmobile operations are getting better and better, however, they still require planning and an opportunity for the ground commander to coordinate with the lift commander or a responsible representative, sufficiently in advance to permit time for adjustments to be made.

(6) Aircraft for resupply should be, in so far as possible, kept separate so that units can resupply at a time most compatible with each units tactical situation. One aircraft per battalion would suffice.

(7) Too many men evacuated from the field for necessary but minor medical reasons were evacuated all the way to the rear.

(8) In the interest of the unity of effort and smooth response to order, the tactical tailoring of units based on habitual association is extremely desirable when practicable.

(9) Comprehensive load lists for all types of aircraft are mandatory if the battalion is reacted rapidly and smoothly to an order for an airmobile operation.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

2 Incls  
1 - Phase III  
2 - Phase IV & V

*Winston R. Jaques*  
WINSTON R. JAMES  
Major Infantry  
Adjutant

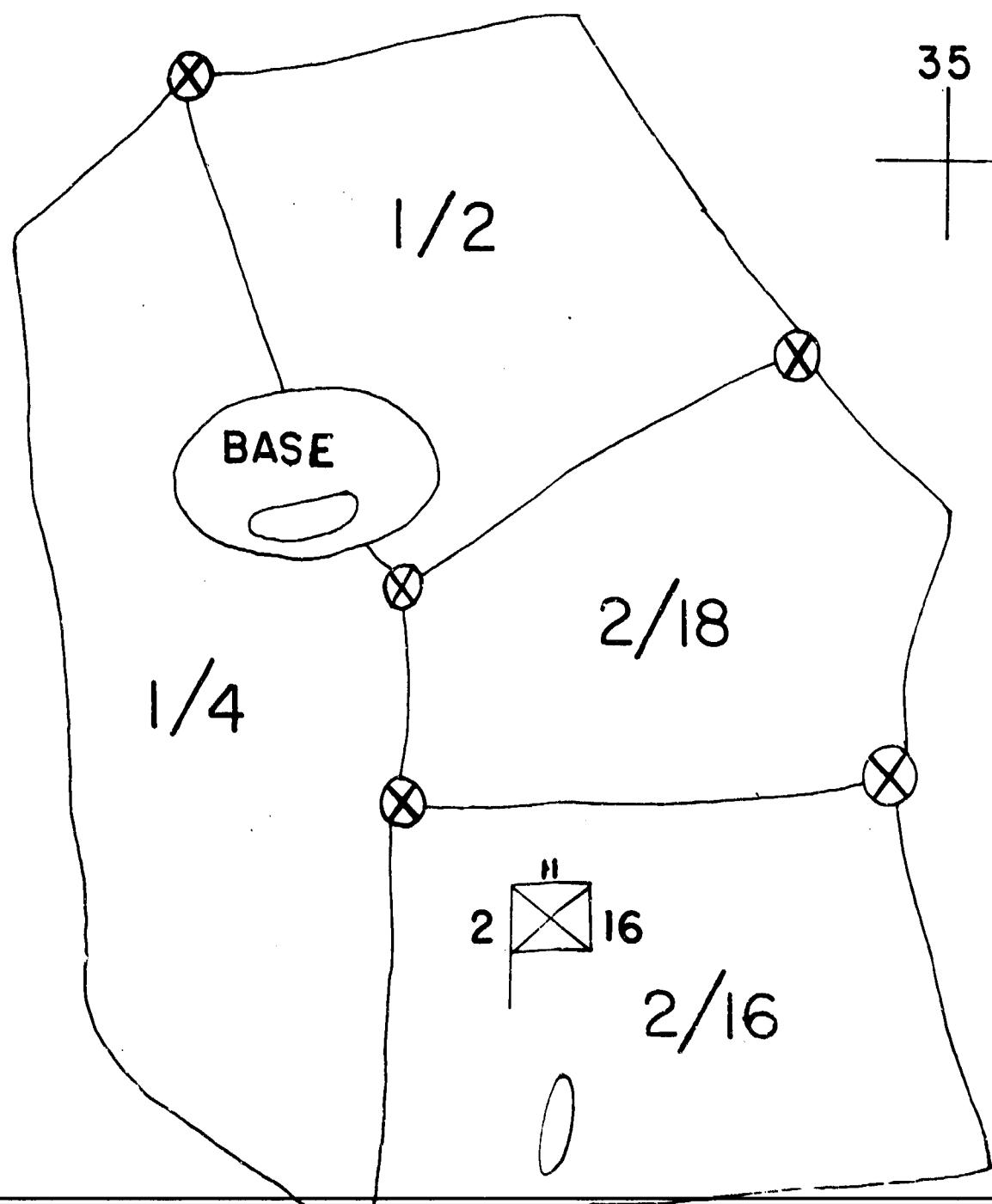
DISTRIBUTION:

20 - 03, 1st Inf Div  
1 - CO  
1 - XO  
1 - 2/16 Inf  
1 - 1/18 Inf  
1 - 2/18 Inf  
1 - 1/7 Arty  
1 - 1/4 Cav  
6 - S3 Files

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

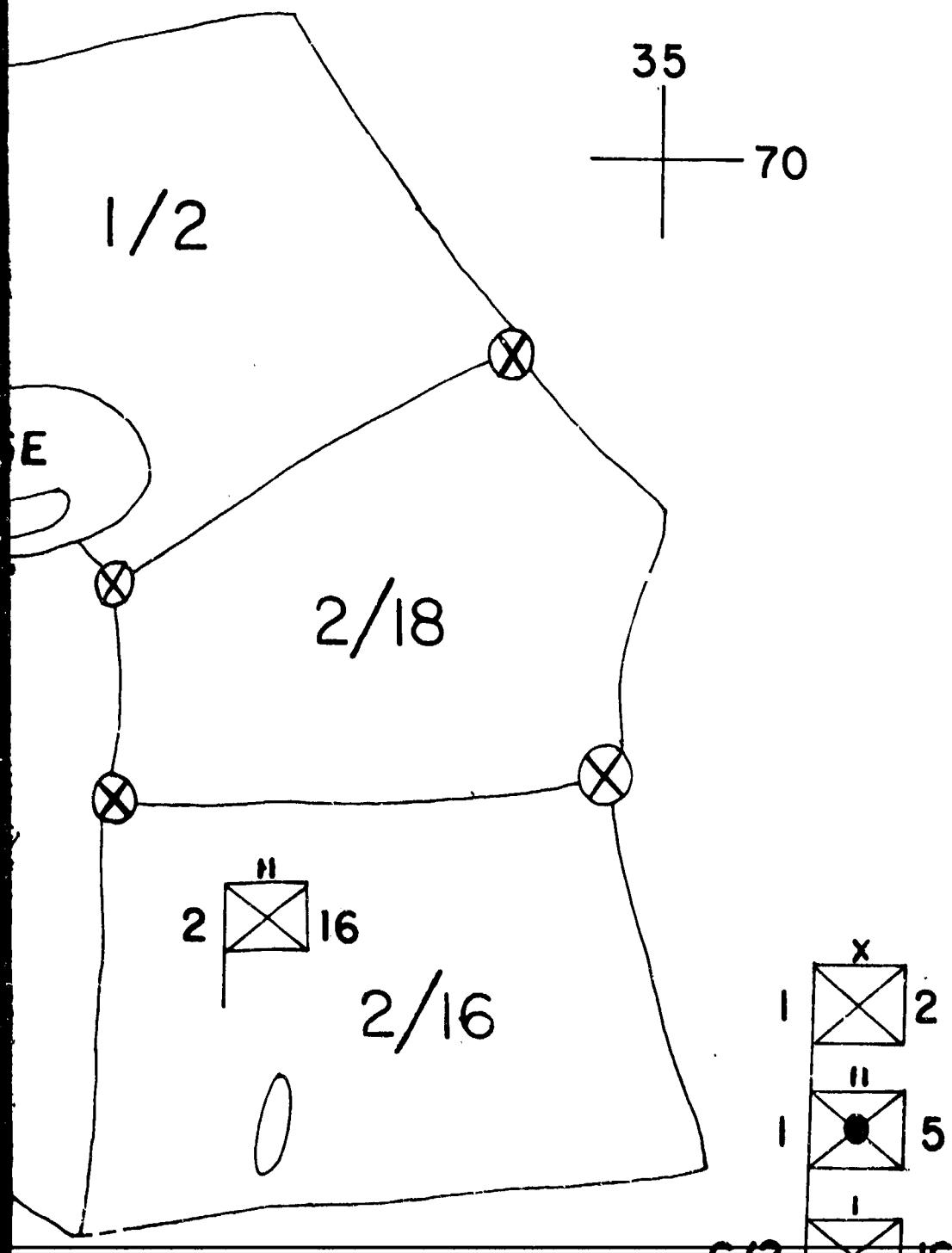
PHASE III      OPN BIRM

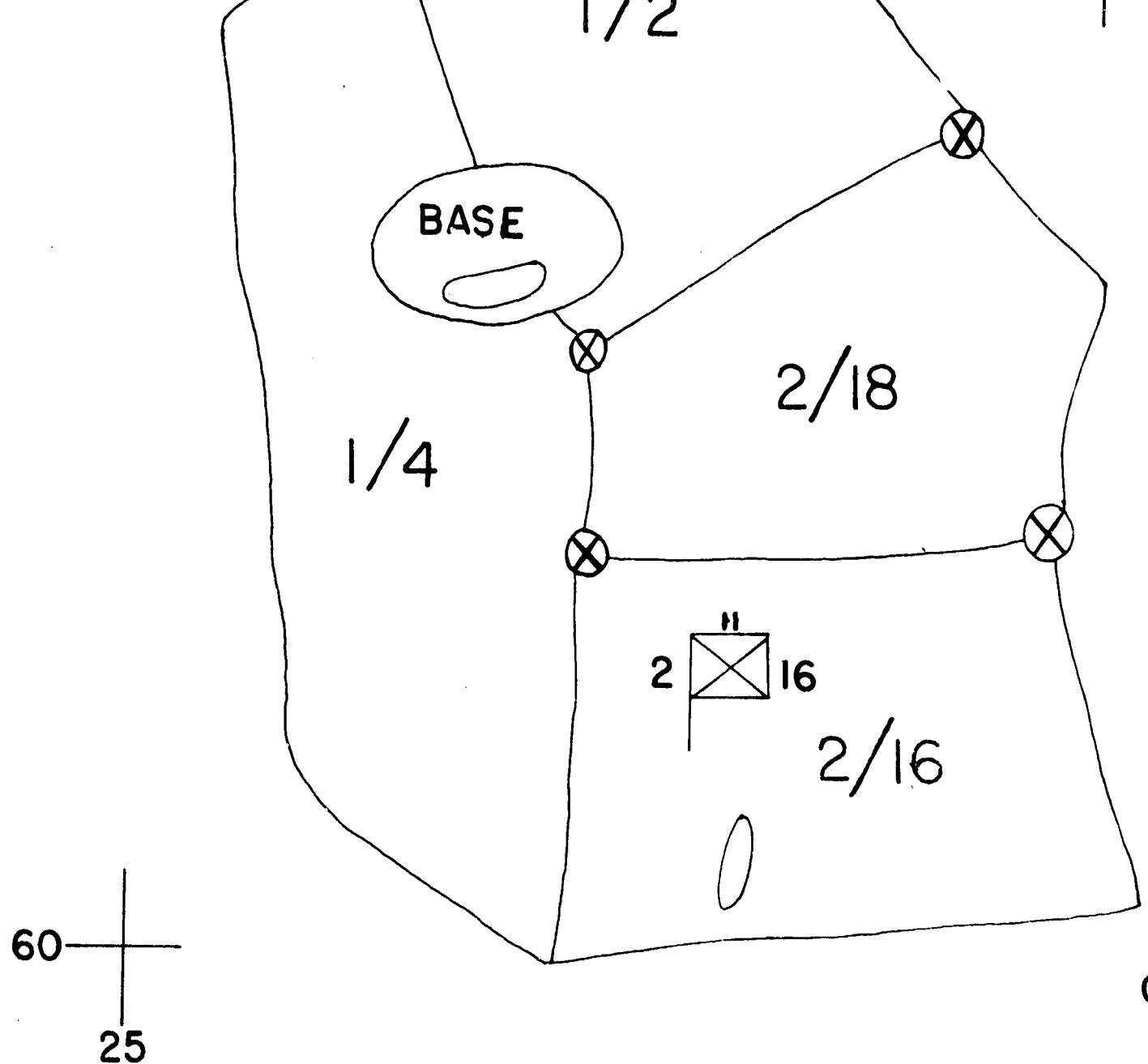


CONFIDENTIAL

21

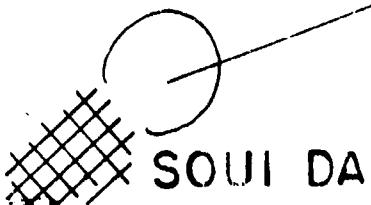
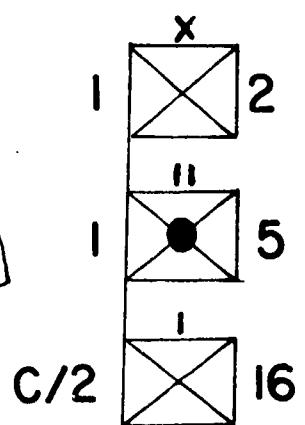
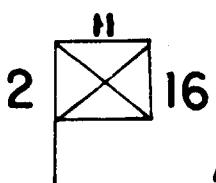
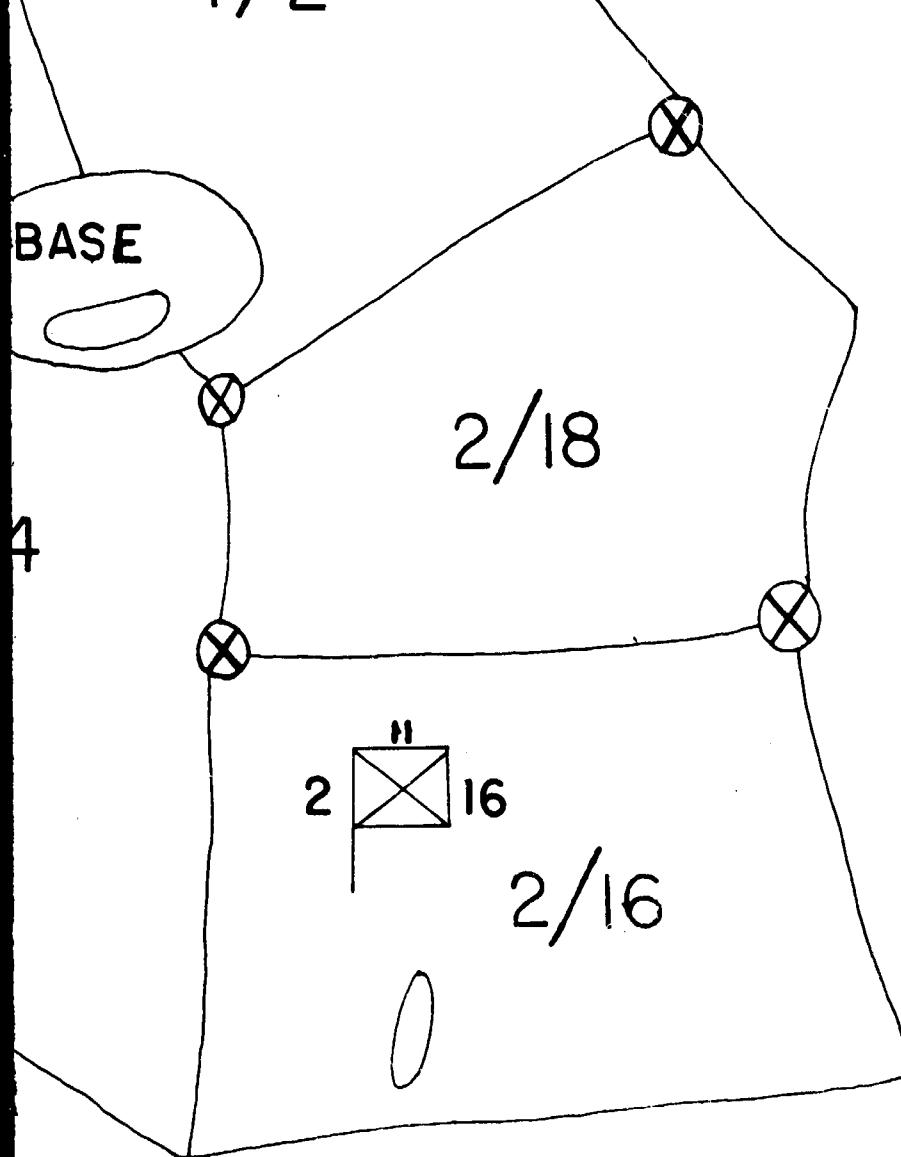
PHASE III      OPN BIRMINGHAM





INCLOSURE 1

CONFIDENTIAL



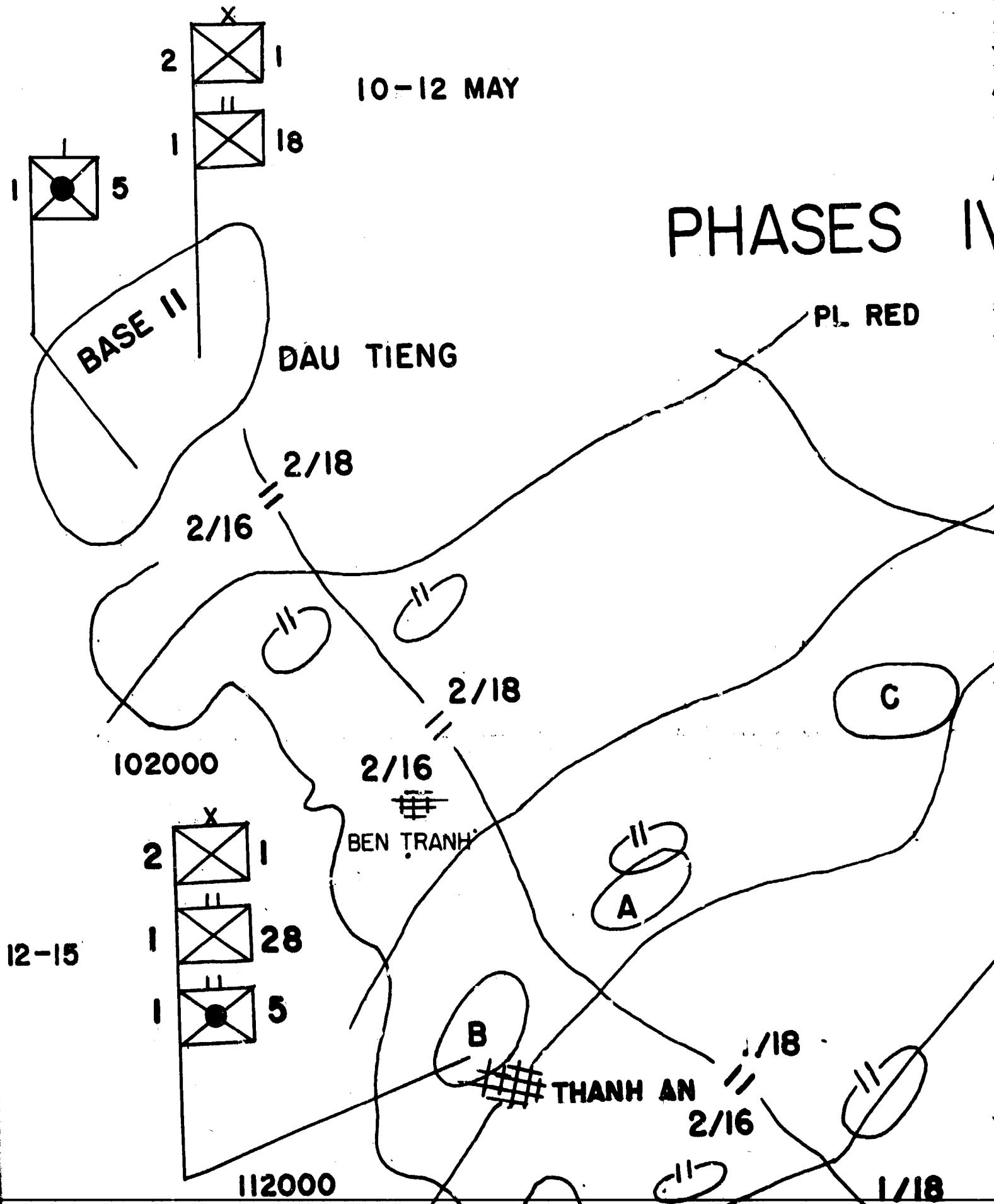
OSURE 1

CONFIDENTIAL



CONFIDENTIAL

PHASES IV



21  
IDENTIAL

SES IV & V OPN BIRMINGHAM

PL RED

65  
+ 45

PL VICEROY

PL SALEM

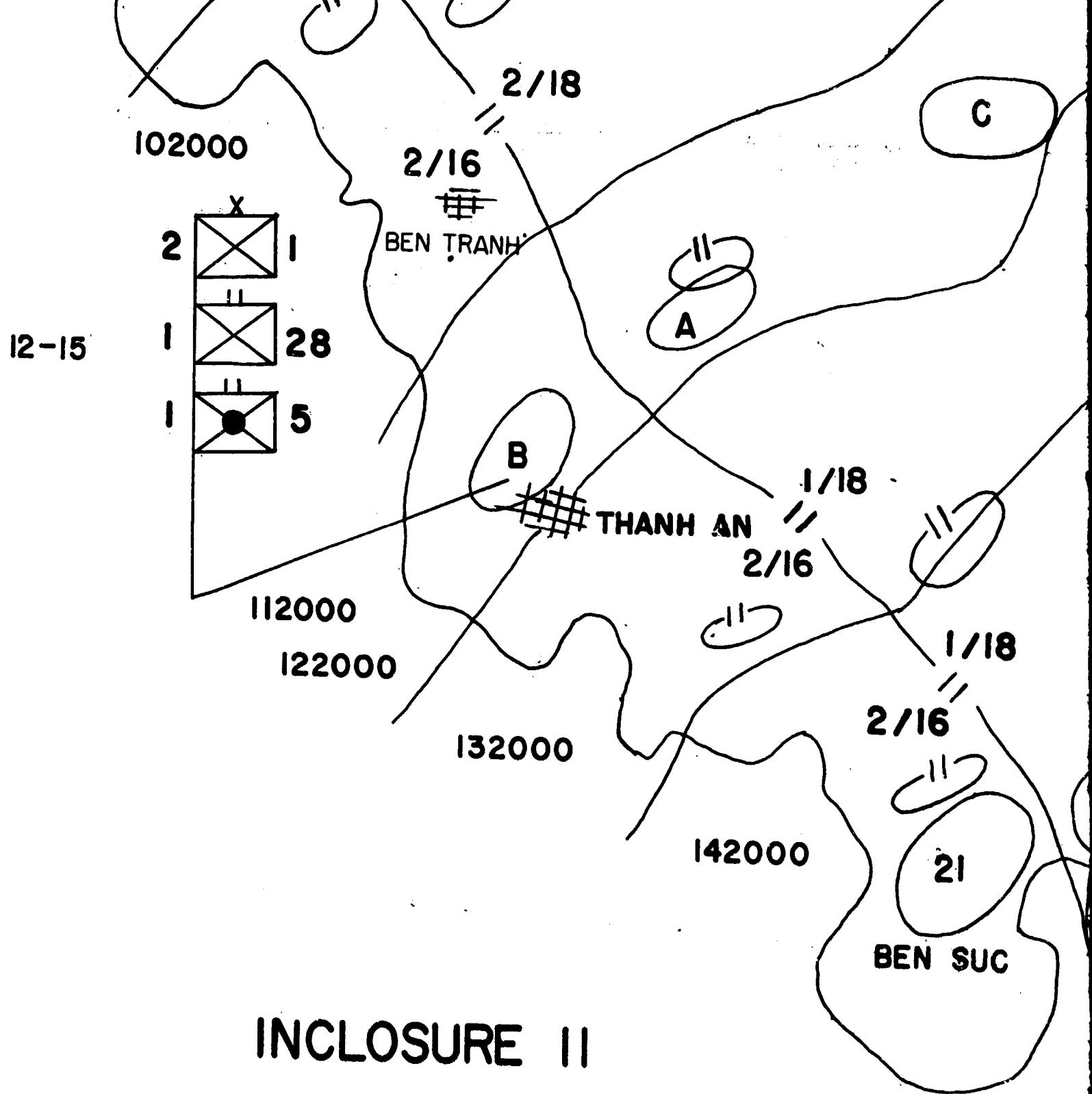
PL BLUE

C

PL KENT

D

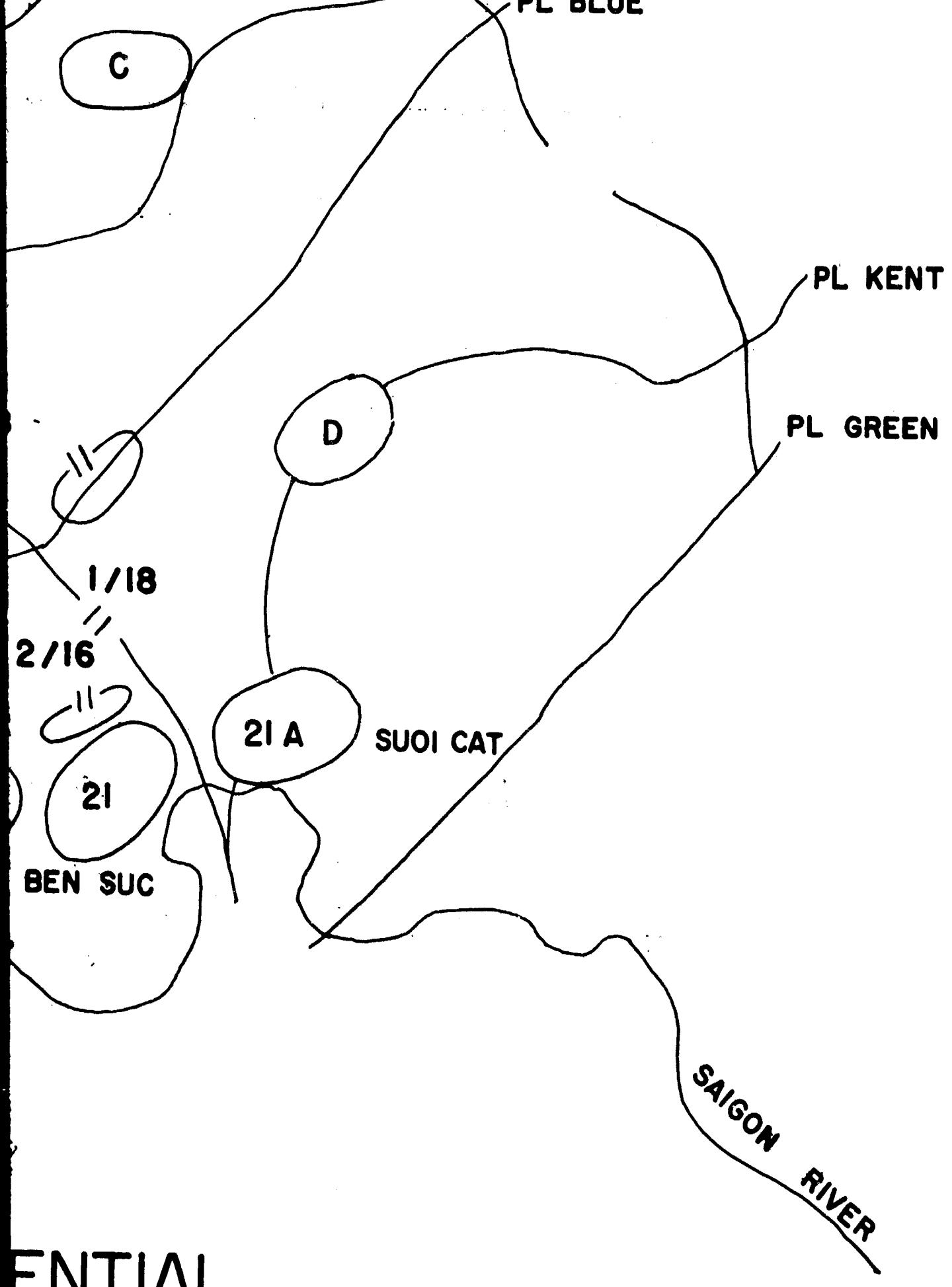
PL GREEN



## INCLOSURE II

30  
—  
55

CONFIDENTIAL



ENTIAL

122

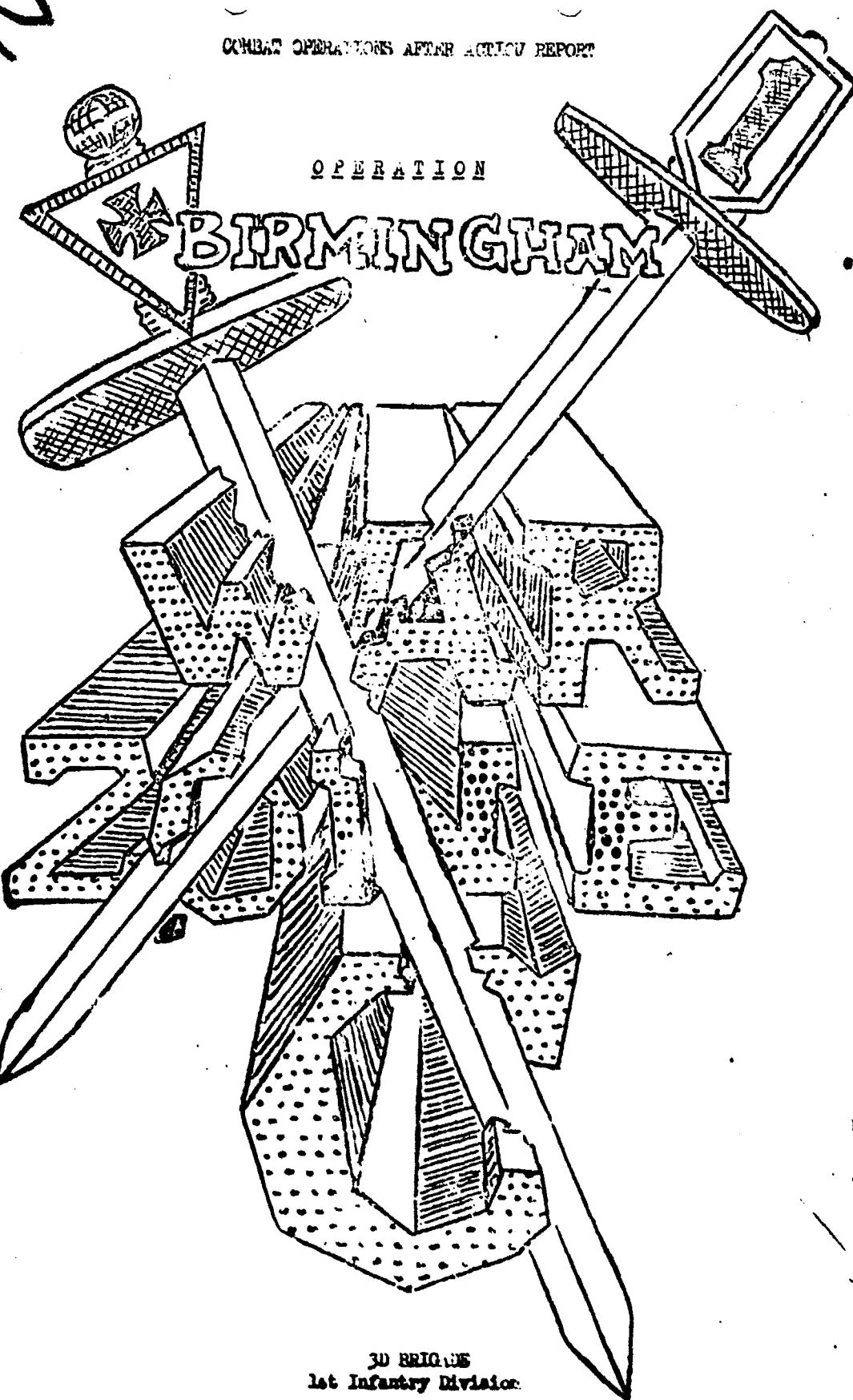
ANNEX K

AFTER ACTION REPORT 3D BN

DIV 7  
COMBAT OPERATIONS AFTER ACTION REPORT

123

OPERATION



3D BRIGADE  
1st Infantry Division

WILLIAM D BRODICK  
Colonel, Infantry  
Commanding

HEADQUARTERS 3D BRIGADE  
1st Infantry Division  
APO US Forces 96345

124  
AVID-WB-C

15 June 1966

SUBJECT: Combat Operations After Action Report (MACV/RCS/J3/32)

THRU: Commanding General  
1st Infantry Division  
ATTN: G3  
APO US Forces 96345

TO: Commander  
US Military Assistance Command Vietnam  
ATTN: J321  
APO US Forces 96243

1. NAME AND TYPE OF OPERATION: Operation BIRMINGHAM - Search and Destroy.
2. DATES OF OPERATION: 240700 April to 171730 May 1966.
3. LOCATION OF OPERATION: TAY NINH Province and WAR ZONE C.
4. COMMAND HEADQUARTERS: 3d Brigade, 1st Infantry Division.
5. UNIT COMMANDERS:

Brig Gen James Hollingsworth, Task Force Hollingsworth  
Colonel William D Brodbeck, CO 3d Brigade  
Lt Col Kyle W Bowie, CO 2/28 Infantry  
Lt Col Lee J Henry, Jr, CO 1/16 Infantry  
Lt Col Jack J Conn, CO 2/2 Infantry  
Lt Col Richard Prillaman, CO 1/2 Infantry  
Lt Col Herbert McChrystal, CO 2/18 Infantry  
Lt Col Robert Haldane, CO 1/28 Infantry  
Lt Col Frank R Timms, CO 2/33 Artillery

6. TASK ORGANIZATION:

Headquarters 3d Brigade  
2/28 Infantry  
1/16 Infantry  
1/2 Infantry  
2/2 Infantry  
2/18 Infantry  
1/28 Infantry

7. SUPPORTING FORCES:

a. 2/33 Artillery:

(1) Size of Forces: Four 105mm howitzer batteries, two 155mm howitzer batteries and Headquarters Battery (-) in direct support of the 3d Brigade Task Force. One of the 105mm batteries was attached from the 1/7 Artillery throughout the operation. Another battery was attached from the 1/5 Artillery for a short period of time. Two 155mm howitzer batteries from the 8/6 Artillery were also in direct support of the Brigade Task Force for a short period of time. Headquarters Battery (-), one 105mm howitzer battery, 1 eight inch howitzer battery and one 175mm gun battery were in support of the LAI KH base camp.

(2) How and When Deployed:

AVID-WB-C

15 June 1966

SUBJECT: Combat Operations After Action Report (14.CV/RCS/J3/32)

(a) The 2/33 Artillery (-) moved by CH30 aircraft from LAI KHE to TAY NINH 3. The battalion (-) was moved from TAY NINH 3 into the operational area by CH47. One battery was moved directly from LAI KHE by CH47 aircraft into the operational area.

(b) During Operation BIRMINGHAM the battalion with attached batteries expended 25,721 rounds of 105mm and 1,298 rounds of 155mm on a total of 3,504 separate missions.

(3) Results of Effectiveness: Throughout operations the fires of the battalion were accurate and violent. All missions were accomplished in a highly professional manner. The battalion gained much needed experience in air-mobile operations by displacing over 200 miles by air. Although no large Viet Cong forces were encountered the battalion with attached batteries fired over 25,000 rounds on preparation fires for landing zones, preparation fires in support of infantry plans, and known and suspected VC targets.

b. Air Force: The Air Force flew 497 close air sorties in support of the 3d Brigade Task Force during Operation BIRMINGHAM. Twenty sorties were flown to prepare landing zones. The fighter sorties were flown as listed below:

24 Apr 1966	35 sorties
25 Apr 1966	21 sorties
26 Apr 1966	36 sorties
27 Apr 1966	24 sorties
28 Apr 1966	33 sorties
29 Apr 1966	31 sorties
30 Apr 1966	24 sorties
1 May 1966	40 sorties
2 May 1966	26 sorties
3 May 1966	11 sorties
4 May 1966	10 sorties
5 May 1966	21 sorties
6 May 1966	9 sorties
7 May 1966	0 sorties
8 May 1966	42 sorties
9 May 1966	6 sorties
10 May 1966	8 sorties
11 May 1966	21 sorties
12 May 1966	29 sorties
13 May 1966	24 sorties
14 May 1966	20 sorties
15 May 1966	26 sorties

There were 19 sorties used as immediate airstrikes suppressing sniper fire. The remainder of the sorties were used to destroy base camps, supply areas and to search for possible VC locations and base camp areas. There were no significant sightings or findings through the air support portion of Operation BIRMINGHAM.

c. Army Air Support: During Operation BIRMINGHAM the 3d Brigade Aviation Section flew a total of 515 missions for a total of 307 hours. The section operated forward maintenance elements at the Brigade HQ's location to accomplish daily maintenance. The Brigade Avn Sec scheduled two CH13S helicopters daily in support of the operation. On future operations a minimum of one OH-13 for each battalion and one OH-13 for Brigade Headquarters will be required. The 3d Brigade Aviation Section cannot support this requirement with current resources. No significant operational problems were encountered by the 3d Brigade Aviation Section during Operation BIRMINGHAM. 1/3 Avn Co in DS of 3d Bde flew 58.6 sorties for a total of 1123.3 hr. which included 9375 passengers and 463.1 tons of cargo.

#### 8. Intelligence:

a. Estimate of VC Strength: Intelligence received on the operational area, WAR ZONE C, established it as a major VC logistical base, training area and safe haven for VC forces utilizing three major infiltration routes along the Vietnamese-Cambodian border at KHM RA MT9478, LO CO MT9775, and KOM GIUA MT9769.

Estimates of VC strength were not given; however, CO information listed the VC C230 battalion (XTC261) and C320 (XTC254) as the only confirmed

units in the operational area. Possible units were two unidentified battalions (XT2168 and XT2268). Reported units consisted of three unidentified regiments, (XT2869, XT1767 and WT9677), the 512th battalion (XT0372), the 531st Battalion (XT0450) and C335 Company (XT2666).

Other units that were reported as influencing the area of operations as operation BIRMINGHAM progressed were C40 Company (XT1943), 305th Regt (XT1868), Q763 and Q764 Regiments (WT9659, WT9652, WT9853 and WT9756), 80th Regiment (XT0590), 70th Regiment (exact location unknown; however, 1 battalion was reported to be in BINH DUONG Province and a second battalion from XT3389 to XT5685 and a third battalion from XT3389 to XT0976), and 272 Regiment believed to be in the MICHELIN RUBBER PLANTATION area.

OB information indicated the largest concentration of VC installations such as base camps, storage areas, medical facilities, and production areas in the land mass between the RACH C-I BAC river and the RACH BEN DA river (WT9757, XT0557, WT9771 and XT0571).

b. Source of Intelligence Received Prior to the Operation: Headquarters 1st Infantry Division was the primary source of intelligence information prior to and during the operation. OB information was given in the form of overlays and proved to be a tremendous improvement over previous practices of producing detailed lists of OB information which required posting and evaluation at Brigade level prior to dissemination to units. Photo coverage prior to D-DAY for the raid on COSVN headquarters was excellent in quality of photos and allowed sufficient time for units to propose sand table plans for the execution of the raid.

c. Situation Anticipated in Objective Area: It was generally felt that the same situation would be encountered as has been experienced in previous Division or Brigade size operations—that the VC would not stand and fight due to the size of the force deployed, except when trapped or to protect important bases or installations. It was anticipated that the VC would use mines, booby traps and snipers extensively to harass and delay the advance of US troops to allow time for evacuation of important installations and to avoid heavy engagements.

d. Situation Encountered During the Operation: There was no major contact made by elements of the 3d Brigade Task Force; however, several instances of contact were made by units on discovery of base camps and other installations as the personnel manning these installations fought rear guard and harassing actions. The most significant engagements were made by the 1/16 Infantry in a base camp area vic XT002574 when they engaged a VC force of 18 to 24 VC. The VC in this camp were well trained and decisive in their reactions and defended the camp and its contents stubbornly until driven out. 4 VC had been positioned and tied in traps near the camp to provide security and sniper fire. The VC were driven from the camp to provide security and sniper fire. The VC were driven from the camp with 9 VC KIA (E), 5 VC KIA (Est), 8 VC WIA (Est) and 4 US KIA and seven US WIA. Four 1960 model CHICOM 8mm bolt action rifles were captured, a large amount of medical supplies and documents were discovered upon search of the camp. The camp consisted of a heavily entrenched and tunnelled system to include five huts. The camp had not been adequately prepared for ground defense although the trenches and tunnels did provide excellent cover from either artillery or airstrikes. 1 of the VC KIA was a medic and from the unusually large amount of medicines found in the camp it appears to have been an aid station.

2/16 Infantry made contact with an estimated 25 VC in a tunnel and bunker vic XT025624 in the late afternoon of 26 April 1966. In engaging this VC force they discovered an ammunition storage area. However, it was late in the day and the storage complex was not fully exploited at that time. The following day 2/16 Infantry in making further search of the area encountered several booby traps that had not been there earlier. This action of the VC gives an indication of the relative security enjoyed by the VC in this ZONE C as in most base camp complexes discovered by US troops primary fortifications were for the protection from airstrikes and not from the advance of ground troops. On the whole less booby trap devices were encountered than had been anticipated.

In the vicinity of XT0256 there were indications of a major VC training area as evidenced by the number of wooden simulators of CHICOM potato masher grenades and simulated bunker positions made of piled sand.

127 At an LZ and later at 3d Brigade CP (XTO278) an extensive bunker and trench system was found by 2/2 Infantry from vic XTO20781 to XTO27880 along the wood line. Although this trench and bunker system did not show signs of recent use and had probably been built for resistance to French paratroop techniques, it could have been fairly successful in resisting US airborne operations had it been properly manned and had the VC chosen to fight in that particular area.

In the populated areas southeast of TAY NINH City local operations gave evidence of VC control of the local population.

Rosters of persons inhabiting the area were found as well as extensive amounts of propaganda material. It appeared that no large VC units were in the area, but that village and hamlet governments were pro-VC.

The OB information provided by C2 1st Infantry Division proved to be quite reliable information. Specific locations of base camps and other installations were not always correct, but in areas where OB information held numerous installations this always proved to be true.

e. Terrain Features, Obstacles and Weather: Terrain in the area was flat land with gentle slopes, with the exception of NUI BA DEN Mountain (XTO278). Most elevations were less than 50 meters. No operations were carried on in the vicinity of NUI BA DEN Mountain so it was not a hinderance but rather aided in air and land navigation as a very distinctive terrain feature.

Dense jungle area interspersed with rice paddies, stream areas, and some jungle clearings which provided helicopter landing zones was the type of terrain encountered in the area north of TAY NINH City.

Terrain in the area southeast of TAY NINH City was flat paddy area except for rubber plantation and occasional patches of jungle.

Natural obstacles in the area were the RACH CAL BACH and RACH BEN DA Rivers which were too deep in most places to be forded. VC field fortifications were primarily trenches and protective shelter from aircraft raids.

Weather during the early part of Operation BIRMINGHAM was hot, dry and humid; however, the monsoon rains began on about 6 May 1966. Weather precluded the accomplishment of the raid by Task Force Hollingsworth on the reported location of COSVN Headquarters as driving rains restricted the use of helicopterborne operations.

9. MISSION: From 1st Infantry Division OPORD 8-66 (Operation BIRMINGHAM) (U), dated 12000 April 1966:

1st Infantry Division in conjunction with ARVN III Corps conducts operations deep into WAR ZONE C to locate and destroy VC forces and base camps during the period 24 April to 7 May 1966.

a. 3d Brigade:

(1) Attached: 2/18 Inf on 23 Apr 66.

(2) 1 airmobile company US effective 23 Apr 66.

on 24 Apr 1st 1 infantry battalion and 1 artillery battery.

(3) Deploy Bde (-) to TAY NINH by C120 aircraft on 24 Apr 66; introduce 1st forces into MU NUU.

(4) Conduct search and destroy operations in AO FORD.

(5) On order conduct search and destroy operations in AO OLDSMOBILE and PLYMOUTH.

(6) Be prepared to release 1st infantry battalion as Division reserve on 1 hour.

(7) Move 1 rifle company from battalion remaining at LAI KHE for the defense of PHU LOI on 23 Apr 66. On arrival this company attached to Div Arty for the defense of PHU LOI.

b. Coordinating Instructions:

(1) Submit aircraft requirements to this headquarters ASAP.

(2) Authority granted to Brigade Commander to employ RCI in accordance with existing directives.

12) (3) Brigades responsible for providing artillery advisories to army aircraft.

(4) A quartering party will be moved to TAY NINH 3 airfield on 24 April to receive the road movement elements from base camps.

10. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS: From 3d Brigade OPORD 8-66 (Operation BIRMINGHAM) (U):

3. EXECUTION:

a. Concept of Operation: 3d Brigade TF moves by ground and air to AO FORD on 23 Apr 66 and 24 Apr 66 to conduct S&D operations against VC forces and installations. TF VANGUARD prepositions at DAU TIENG on 23 April 1966 and is attached to 3d Brigade upon arrival. TF DEVIL conducts an airmobile assault vic BASE 1 to establish Brigade base followed by an airmobile assault by 2/18 Inf to secure BASE 3. Bde (-) moves by C130 to TAY NINH 3, translocates to UH1D and CH-47 helicopters for movement of 1/16 Inf to BASE 3 and 2/33 Arty (-) and Bde CP to BASE 1. B Btry 1/7 Arty moves by CH47 from DAU TIENG to BASE 1. 1/16 Inf and 2/18 Inf on order conduct coordinated S&D in AO MERCURY and LINCOLN. 2/2 Inf conducts independent company size operations in AO COMET and FALCON. Air Force only for preparation of LZ's vic BASE 1 and BASE 3. Thereafter LS battalion supports from BASE 1, GS from BASE 2. CS preplanned and on call.

b. TF DEVIL:

(1) Release B Btry 2/33 Arty upon arrival of command group 2/33 Arty into BASE 1.

(2) On order be prepared to revert to Division Reserve within 1 hour.

c. 1/16 Inf: S&D in AO MERCURY on order.

d. TF VANGUARD:

(1) Secure BASE 3 for landing of 1/16 Inf.

(2) S&D in AO LINCOLN on order.

(3) B Btry 1/7 Arty detached upon departure from DAU TIENG.

e. 2/28 Inf:

(1) Conduct operations along Hwy 13 on 23 Apr 66 for passage of Brigade Trains.

(2) LAI KHE base camp security force.

f. 2/33 Arty: DS.

g. B Btry 1/7 Arty:

(1) Move from DAU TIENG to BASE 1 by CH47 on 24 Apr 66.

(2) Upon arrival in BASE 1 attached to 2/33 Arty.

h. D Co 1st Engr Bn: Provide engineer demo teams to each infantry battalion less LAI KHE base camp security force.

i. Bde Trains:

(1) Move by motor march to PHU LOI on D-1 to arrive NLT 1530 hrs.

(2) Attached Div Arty on arrival for motor march to AO.

j. Coordinating Instructions:

(1) The 2/2 Inf and 1/16 Inf will leave behind at LAI KHE a minimum of one 81mm mortar and crew per company and a minimum of two 4.2 inch mortars.

(2) Departing units submit their stay-behind foxhole strength to Brigade B3 NLT 231200 Apr 66.

(3) All personnel will carry protective mask.

(4) When VC contact is made, all efforts will be made to fix and destroy the enemy force.

(5) D-Day is 24 April 1966.

(6) Infantry battalions when under Division control will submit written daily sitreps to arrive at Division NLT 2400 hours each day.

(7) Rice caches will be destroyed on approval this headquarters.

11. EXECUTION:

11. 3d Brigade Task Force initiated Operation BIRMINGHAM at 240700 April 1966 with the 1/16 Infantry, 2/2 Infantry, 2/18 Infantry and 2/33 Artillery. The 3d Brigade was airlifted by C130 aircraft from LAI KHE to a staging area vic TAY NINH. The 2/18 Infantry was airlifted into a staging area vic DAU TIENG on 23 April 1966.

On 24 April the 2/2 Infantry conducted a heliborne assault into LZ vic KT108605 and secured that area for the landing of B Battery 2/33 Artillery. The

129  
2/18 Infantry conducted a heliborne assault into LZ vic XT045593 and secured this area for the landing of the 1/16 Infantry and the Brigade CP. The 1/16 Infantry moved by air into LZ vic XT045598. The 2/33 Artillery moved 1 battery by CH47 to BSE AREA 1 vic XT100600. 1 attached battery from the 1/7 Artillery moved into BSE AREA 3 at XT830570. The remaining elements moved by O-30 to the Division Log Base vic TAY NINI 3 (XT160570).

On 25 April at 0800 hrs B 2/2 Infantry and C 2/2 Infantry conducted S&D from their RON position to XT080585 and XT078600. A 2/2 Infantry, battalion CP and B Battery 2/33 Artillery remained vic XT111504. At 251230 April A 2/2 Infantry began movement by UH1D to vic Brigade CP. At 251325 A 2/2 Infantry closed vic Brigade CP and assumed security of the Brigade CP. At approximately 251245 April the 2/2 Infantry began to S&D to the west vic XT055595 arriving Brigade CP location at 251545 with negative contact. The 1/16 Infantry dispatched 3 platoon size patrols at 250700 April to the following locations: A 1/16 Inf at XT020583, B 1/16 Inf at XT042595 and C 1/16 Inf at XT028563. At 250835 April B 1/16 Infantry patrol made contact with 2 VC vic XT050590. In the fire fight 1 VC was WIA and his weapon captured. At 1025 hrs B and C 1/16 Infantry began to S&D to the north to vic XT042595 and then west. A 1/16 Infantry remained in vic of RON position providing security for the Brigade CP. At 1325 hrs A 1/16 Infantry was relieved of the mission of Brigade security and moved out to follow 1/16 Infantry (-). At 0900 hrs 2/18 Infantry began to S&D to the following locations: A 2/18 Infantry XT111502, B 2/18 Infantry XT008618, C 2/18 Infantry XT990512, battalion CP moved with 2/18 Infantry. There was negative contact. At 1930 hrs a 2/18 Infantry suffered 1 KIA from sniper fire vic XT002527.

On 26 April the 2/2 Infantry conducted local patrols vic Brigade CP. At 261017 April C 2/2 Infantry patrol found 1 ton of rice vic XT045559 and 1/2 ton of rice vic XT100829. A 2/2 Infantry patrol destroyed a tunnel vic XT043517 at 1123 hrs. A 2/2 Infantry found 2,200 pounds of rice, numerous picks and some fish vic XT043592. At 1800 hrs C 2/2 Infantry found and evacuated 1 ton of rice vic XT012572. At 1835 hrs C 2/2 Infantry linked up with 1/16 Infantry and closed into vicinity Brigade CP. At 1955 hrs A 2/2 Infantry fired on approximately 10 VC vic XT028585 with negative results. The 1/16 Infantry conducted S&D operations to the west at 260940 April. A 1/16 Infantry found an old base camp vic XT001590. This camp contained several foxholes, 2 huts, 150 pounds salt and 80 pounds rice. The salt, rice and huts were destroyed. As 1/16 Infantry continued their S&D operations B Company found a way-station vic WT988599 which could accommodate 100 persons and contained a kitchen, several huts and several bunkers which were destroyed. Indications were that this camp had been recently used. At 1230 hrs B Company 1/16 Infantry found 3,000 pounds rice and 50 pounds salt vic WT981595 which was destroyed in place. At 1300 hrs C 1/16 Infantry made contact with an estimated 6 VC vic XT003574 and began to pursue. As the pursuit continued, C Company ran into a VC base camp vic XT003574 which was defended by an estimated 20 VC. A violent fire fight developed and C 1/16 Infantry maneuvered against the VC force. Realizing that they were outnumbered the VC withdrew to the southeast. Artillery fire and airstrikes were called in behind the VC. Contact was broken at 1430 hrs. C 1/16 Infantry suffered 7 WIA and 4 KIA. The VC suffered 5 KIA (SC), 5 KIA (Pvt) and 7 WIA (Pos). Also 4 weapons were captured. This base camp contained a trench, 10 foxholes, 3 bunkers, a blackboard, medical supplies and documents were also found in the base camp. The camp was destroyed and the supplies and documents were evacuated. At 1900 hrs 1/16 Infantry closed into their RON positions with C 1/16 at XT012572 and C 1/16 Headquarters at XT015575. At 260810 hrs A 2/18 Infantry began to S&D to the west. At 0950 hrs C 2/18 Infantry received SA fire from vic WT990519. Fire was returned with unknown results. At 1110 hrs C 2/18 Infantry became engaged with an estimated 7 VC and at 1145 hrs 2/18 Infantry was ordered to move B 2/18 Infantry closer to C 2/18 Infantry. The 2/18 Infantry was later instructed to move west and search the east bank of the river thoroughly. While searching this area B 2/18 Infantry received SA and M79 fire from base camp vic WT990522. At 1213 hrs C Company suffered 1 WIA and 2 KIA from fire vic WT990518. The VC that were engaged with B 2/18 Infantry broke contact at 1307 hrs. At this time elements of B 2/18 Infantry commenced to search the base camp vic XT990522. The camp contained 1 bunker and 4 huts. B 2/18 Infantry suffered 1 WIA from M79 grenade during the search of the camp complex. The estimated VC force in the camp when B 2/18 Infantry arrived was 20. This action resulted in 1 VC KIA (SC) and an estimated 3 VC KIA and 3 VC WIA. At 1350 hrs B 2/18 Infantry found an elaborate base camp vic WT990522. This camp was capable of accommodating 300 persons and contained a bicycle repair shop, medical

## B-111: Combat Operations After Action Report (MACV/RCS 13/32)

facilities, POW cage, political indoctrination facility and 2 bundles of documents at 1438 hrs A 2/18 Infantry destroyed 70 tons of rice vic WT98631. At 1447 hrs C Company destroyed 25 tons of rice vic WT98613. At 1627 hrs 2/18 Infantry made contact with an estimated 25 VC who were in the trees and on the ground. The area was a small tunnel system and rice cache vic WT98524. The VC fled to the south and ran into B 2/18 Infantry which was blocking vic WT98524. As a result of this action A 2/18 Infantry killed 1 VC by body count and suffered 1 KIA and 5 WIA. While in their blocking position B 2/18 Infantry discovered a VC ammunition area which contained one 250 lb bomb, sixteen 60mm mortar rounds and a quantity of small arms ammunition. At 1805 hrs elements of 2/18 Infantry were still in contact with the VC. At 2030 hrs casualties of 2/18 Infantry were evacuated and at 2100 hours all of 2/18 Infantry was in RON position with A and B at WT982621, C at WT98613 and headquarters at XTO41626. In addition to the ground action, numerous airstrikes were called in during the day and extensive use was made of artillery support available.

On 27 April at 0900 hrs the Brigade CP and 2/33 Artillery (-) began movement to vic XTO23645 by CH47. At 1020 hrs a CH47 was hit by sniper fire vic XTO357 wounding one of the pilots. The 2/2 Infantry at 277008 April began to S&D to the south of their RON positions along the river. At 0810 hrs B 2/2 Infantry found 1,600 lbs of rice vic XTO45565 which was evacuated. At 0918 hrs B 2/2 Inf went to XTO4594 where they found a rice cache on 26 April and discovered that the rice had been removed during the night. At 0930 hrs B 2/2 Infantry received SA fire from 2 snipers vic XTO45550. B 2/2 Infantry took them under fire with negative results. B Company returned to 1's RON position at 1200 hrs with no further contact. At 1600 hrs 2/2 Infantry began to move by this to vic XTO23643 and closed this area at 1720 hrs. Upon closure 2/2 Infantry moved to their RON position vic XTO35645 and closed that area at 1800 hrs 27 April. At 0800 hrs a patrol from C 1/16 Infantry found a base camp vic XTO45538 which contained 8 huts and a trench system. 3 men were seen leaving the camp. They were taken under fire with negative results. At 1100 hrs 1/16 Infantry moved by UH1D from their RON position to vic XTO23645 and closed at 1130 hrs. At 1530 hrs 1 man from C 1/16 Infantry was wounded by sniper fire vic XTO3646. 1/16 Infantry remained vic of the Brigade CP during the night of 27-28 April 1966. At 270710 April 2/18 Infantry began to S&D. A 2/18 Infantry moved to WT98630 and began to S&D to the south along the river. C 2/18 Infantry moved to WT98600 and began to S&D north along the river. B 2/18 Infantry returned to the ammunition cache vic WT98525 and destroyed the ammunition which they had discovered in a previous search of that area. At 0900 hrs they received 2 WIA from snipers while searching the area. At 1030 hrs Headquarters 2/18 Infantry discovered a battalion size base camp vic WT991617. The camp contained 8 classrooms (100-150 persons each), 50 huts and a supply point that contained uniforms, kitchens, 20 tons of rice, 25 hogs, 25 chickens, 3 bicycles and one treadle-powered sewing machine. All were destroyed except the uniforms which were evacuated. Documents containing 181 names indicated that the VC 11th Company was occupying the camp. Along the length of the river that the 2/18 Infantry searched many complexes were found. The following items were found along the river: 200 huts, 56 tons rice, 45 gallons of syrup, 40 gallons of fish sauce, one 25-50 HP Diesel engine, 1 rice hunker, 1 gasoline generator, a 2HP engine, 4 bicycles, 2 ox carts, various types of livestock and assorted tea, coffee, salt and sugar. In the vicinity WT992637 B 2/18 Infantry found an ammunition manufacturing complex and 1 US M16 carbine. There were approximately 10 different types of ammunition in this complex. In the vicinity of WT990-171 2/18 Infantry found 2 bicycles, numerous documents and 1 tape recorder. At 27700 April all 2/18 Infantry units closed their RON positions at WT991617. In addition to ground action the 4th Force Cavalry 25 sorties in close support to the 3d Brigade AF. They also destroyed a POL dump at WT98630 and a POL and ammunition storage area at XTO75548.

On 27 April at 0905 hrs the 2/2 Infantry began S&D operations from its RON position west of the RACH Dk River vic XTO30645. Upon reaching the river at 1145 hrs the 2/2 Infantry began to S&D north and south along the west bank between the 53 and 65 E-W grid lines. The 2/2 Infantry had negative contact and at 1515 hrs began to move to XTO45645 where at 1837 hrs they linked up with 1/16 Infantry. They remained in this position for the night. The 1/16 Infantry remained in reserve during the morning of 28 April and secured the artillery base and Brigade CP. Upon the arrival of the 2/18 Infantry at 1145 hrs the 1/16 Infantry began to S&D to the northwest in the area XTO355 with negative enemy contact. At 1430 hrs 1/16 Infantry closed their RON positions.

At 0830 hrs 2/18 Infantry began to S&D to the east from their RON position WT991-640. The 2/18 Infantry moved on 2 axes. At 0930 hrs they found a large base camp where, upon entering, they observed 3 VC running away. Lead elements of 2/18 Infantry took them under fire. One VC was estimated to be WIA and one shotgun was captured. The base camp contained the following items: several Chicom claymore mines; several booby trapped Chicom grenades; numerous axes, picks and shovels; sleeping quarters for men and women; an 8 bed hospital; a ping-pong table; several gallons of whiskey; cooking area for 50 persons; a wooden cabinet; 1200 lbs rice; eating utensils; 75 BA30 batteries; 10 huts and numerous foxholes and trenches. All items were destroyed. The 2/18 Infantry then continued to S&D to the east and closed vic Bde CP at 1145 hrs and became Division rapid reaction force.

On 29 April the Brigade CP and the 2/33 Artillery (-) began movement by CH47 to LZ CHORD vic XT0278. At 1105 hrs the Bde CP began operating from vic LZ CHORD. At 1415 hrs the 2/33 Artillery (-) closed into LZ CHORD. At 290755 April 2/2 Infantry moved from its RON position to vic the Brigade CP where they were picked up by UH1D at 0933 hrs and moved to LZ CHORD where they took over security of the Artillery base and Brigade CP. Locations of the 2/2 Infantry patrols for the night of 29-30 April were XT032777 and XT025771. The 2/2 Infantry (-) remained in the vic of the Brigade CP. At 290650 April the 1/16 Infantry moved from its RON position to vic the Brigade CP where they were lifted by UH1D and conducted an airmobile assault into LZ CHORD at 0905 hrs after an air and artillery preparation. At 0915 hrs the 1/16 Infantry received SA fire from the south end of LZ CHORD vic XT025785. Fire was returned with negative results. At 1015 hrs the 1/16 Infantry received SA fire from vic XT025780 resulting in 2 WIA. At 1104 hrs the 1/16 Infantry departed LZ CHORD and began to S&D to the northeast along the road. At 1224 hrs the 1/16 Infantry arrived at its RON position vic XT049793 and sent out three patrols to the following areas: A Company patrol to XT040800, B Company patrol to XT057-779 and C Company patrol to XT062802. At 1515 hrs C 1/16 Infantry received 5 to 6 SA rounds and 1 rifle grenade from vic XT053796 resulting in 1 WIA. All 1/16 Inf patrols returned to vic of battalion CP by 1745 hrs with no further contact. Location of 1/16 Infantry for the night of 29-30 April was XT049743. The 2/18 Inf secured LZ RED for the extraction of the 1st and 3d Brigades. At 1200 hrs they received sniper rounds vic LZ RED resulting in 1 WIA who later died of wounds. The 2/18 Infantry received sporadic sniper fire throughout the day from snipers around LZ RED. At 1645 hrs the 2/18 Infantry began movement from LZ RED to AO MERCURY by UH1D. Upon arrival in AO MERCURY the 2/18 Infantry came under the operational control of the 1st Brigade.

On 30 April 1966 at 0806 hrs A Company 2/2 Infantry began to S&D to the north vic XT016810. At 0810 hrs B 2/2 Infantry began to S&D to the northeast vic XT031800. At 0833 hrs B 2/2 Infantry received SA fire while moving out vic XT027-789. There were negative US casualties. At 0920 hrs A 2/2 Infantry received sniper fire vic XT027789 and heavier fire was received from 8 VC at 0925 hrs. A 2/2 Infantry took them under fire and placed artillery and mortar fire ahead of them as they moved forward. At 0941 hrs C 2/2 Infantry moved into position vic XT032-798 in order to be able to move to assist A 2/2 Infantry. A 2/2 Infantry had encountered a trench and bunker system running east and west vic XT022797 which was defended by an unknown number of VC. At 1000 hrs A 2/2 Infantry suffered 2 KIA and 2 WIA while assaulting these bunkers. At 1104 hrs A 2/2 Infantry suffered 3 more WIA while sweeping through the bunker complex. A 2/2 Infantry continued its sweep to the north vic XT028798. At 1500 hrs A 2/2 Infantry returned to the bunker complex and destroyed it. At 1618 hrs B 2/2 Infantry closed vic Brigade CP and at 1642 hrs A 2/2 Infantry closed. The 2/2 Infantry remained vic Brigade CP for the night. At 300715 April B 1/16 Infantry received several rounds of SA fire vic XT048785 resulting in 2 WIA. 2 VC ran to the southwest and were taken under fire with unknown results. At 0840 hrs the 1/16 Infantry began to S&D with C 1/16 Infantry headed toward XT070792 and 1/16 Infantry (-) heading toward XT061769. At 0950 hrs 1/16 Infantry was ordered to move back to its RON position vic XT047794. At 1030 hrs 1/16 Infantry received several rounds of sniper fire vic XT053796 with negative results. At 1145 hrs the 1/16 Infantry moved from its RON position to vic Brigade CP where it closed at 1300 hrs and occupied a portion of the perimeter in conjunction with the 2/2 Infantry. At 1400 hrs the 1/16 Infantry was placed on 1 hour alert as rapid reaction force to be committed to the area of the 1st Brigade if needed. The battalion remained vicinity 3d Brigade CP for the night. At 1750 hrs resupply helicopters received heavy SA fire from vic XT032783. Helicopter gun teams, airstrikes and artillery were called in. Several VC were flushed into the open and taken under fire by 1/16 Infantry.

Infantry sent a patrol from B Company to check the area at this time. B Company killed 2 VC in khaki uniforms and captured 1 carbine rifle and 1 M14 rifle.

132

On 1 May 1966 at 0950 hrs the 2/33 Artillery (-) and the 3d Brigade CP began to move by CH47 from PZ LANSING vic XT0278 to PZ A WILLOW RUN vic XT3147. At 1142 hrs the 3d Brigade forward CP began operations from WILLOW RUN. During the day the 2/2 Infantry secured PZ LANSING for the extraction of 1/16 Infantry, 2/33 Artillery (-) and 3d Brigade CP. The 1/16 Infantry encountered scattered sniper fire around the PZ throughout the day. At 1035 hrs helicopters received SA fire from vic XT050792. At 1350 hrs the 2/2 Infantry received 3 to 4 rounds of SA fire from vic XT022785 resulting in 1 US WIA. Fire was returned with unknown results. At 1522 hrs the 2/2 Infantry engaged a sniper vic XT022787 and killed 1 VC (BC) and captured 1 sub-machinegun. At 1500 hrs the 2/2 Infantry killed 1 more sniper vic XT018782 and captured his weapon. At 1530 hrs the 2/2 Infantry began movement from PZ LANSING to WILLOW RUN by UH1D and occupied the western edge of the Brigade perimeter. At 0917 hrs the 1/16 Infantry began movement by UH1D from PZ LANSING to WILLOW RUN. Upon reaching WILLOW RUN the 1/16 Infantry swept the area and put 1 company in each battalion area around the perimeter. At 1300 hrs the recon platoon 1/16 Infantry picked up 3 VCS vic XT320450. These suspects were evacuated to TAY NINH. The 1/16 Infantry occupied the southern and southeastern portion of the Brigade perimeter. The 1/16 Infantry CP was located at XT311462. At 1304 hrs the 1/2 Infantry closed into WILLOW RUN from AO MERCURY and upon closing became attached to the 3d Brigade. The 1/2 Infantry occupied the northern and northeastern portions of the Brigade perimeter. Their battalion CP was located at XT318472.

On 2 May at 0630 hrs the Recon Platoon of the 1/2 Infantry moved to secure a landing zone vic XT375505 for the arrival of 1st Brigade elements. The area was secured by 0655 hrs. The Recon Platoon 1/2 Infantry closed back into their battalion perimeter at 0845 hrs. The 1/2 Infantry conducted ambush patrols during the night of 2 - 3 May. The battalion CP remained in the same location. 2/2 Inf conducted care and maintenance of personnel and equipment and conducted ambush patrols during the night of 2 - 3 May. The 2/2 Infantry CP remained in the same location. The 1/16 Infantry conducted 3 patrols during the day to vic XT292450, XT308440 and XT330450. At 1350 hrs C 1/16 Infantry (-) conducted care and maintenance of personnel and equipment and conducted ambush patrols during the night of 2 - 3 May. The battalion CP remained in the same location.

On 3 May at 0700 hrs A Troop 1/4 Cavalry secured the road from vic 3d Brigade CP to vic XT3357. At 0700 hrs the 1/16 Infantry began movement by truck from vic their RON position (XT317462) to the airstrip at SUOI DA (XT3357). At 0600 hrs the 1st elements of 2/23 Infantry arrived at SUOI DA by CV2 aircraft from LAI KHE and the 1/16 Infantry departed by the same CV2 for LAI KHE to assume the mission of LAI KHE base camp security. 2/23 Infantry upon arrival moved to the area of the 3d Brigade CP by truck. The 1/16 Infantry Recon Platoon was moved from LAI KHE to PHU LOI by CV2 and attached to Division Artillery at 1612 hrs. Recon Platoon 2/23 Infantry was moved to the operational area. The 1/16 Infantry closed LAI KHE at 1610 hrs. The 2/23 Infantry closed the operational area at 1847 hours. The 1/2 Infantry conducted care and maintenance of personnel and equipment. At 2000 hrs the 1/2 Infantry moved to OBJ 31 (vic XT4044).

On 4 May at 0310 hrs the village at OBJ 31 was surrounded by the 1/2 Inf with A 1/2 Infantry on the west, B 1/2 Infantry on the south and southeast and C 1/2 Infantry on the north and northeast. At 0555 hrs the 1/2 Infantry was fired on by 2 VC vic XT405440. Fire was returned and 1 VC KIA (BC) was found and 2 rifles were captured (later, an airborne FAC spotted a second VC body lying near this area). At 0620 hrs A 1/2 Infantry engaged a number of VC to the south of the village vic XT408438 and killed 2 more VC and captured 2 more shoulder weapons. At 0700 hrs a Psy/Ops helicopter containing GVN officials to include the district chief made an announcement which instructed the members of the village to assemble in the market place. At 0815 hrs the GVN officials, members of the Civil Affairs teams, G5 representatives and MEDCAP teams entered the village to talk with the occupants. 2 VCS were picked up and evacuated from the village. A total of 51 people were found in the village. At 1020 hrs the 1/2 Infantry began to move back to their battalion RON position and closed that position at 1420 hrs. At 040655 May the 2/2 Infantry began to move from its RON position (XT315477) and conducted S&D operations to the southeast. At 0835 hrs the 2/2 Infantry was located in the vic of XT335433. At approximately 1000 hrs 2/2 Infantry found 4

Infantry sent a patrol from B Company to check the area at this time. B Company killed 2 VC in khaki uniforms and captured 1 carbine rifle and 1 M14 rifle.

132

On 1 May 1966 at 0950 hrs the 2/33 Artillery (-) and the 3d Brigade CP began to move by CH47 from PZ LANSING vic XT02783 to AREA WILLOW RUN vic XT3147. At 1142 hrs the 3d Brigade forward CP began operations from WILLOW RUN. During the day the 2/2 Infantry secured PZ LANSING for the extraction of 1/16 Infantry, 2/33 Artillery (-) and 3d Brigade CP. The 1/16 Infantry encountered scattered sniper fire around the PZ throughout the day. At 1035 hrs helicopters received SA fire from vic XT050792. At 1350 hrs the 2/2 Infantry received 3 to 4 rounds of SA fire from vic XT022785 resulting in 1 US WIA. Fire was returned with unknown results. At 1322 hrs the 2/2 Infantry engaged a sniper vic XT022787 and killed 1 VC (BC) and captured 1 sub-machinegun. At 1500 hrs the 2/2 Infantry killed 1 more sniper vic XT018782 and captured his weapon. At 1530 hrs the 2/2 Infantry began movement from PZ LANSING to WILLOW RUN by UH1D and occupied the western edge of the Brigade perimeter. At 0917 hrs the 1/16 Infantry began movement by UH1D from PZ LANSING to WILLOW RUN. Upon reaching WILLOW RUN the 1/16 Infantry swept the area and put 3 company in each battalion area around the perimeter. At 1300 hrs the recon platoon 1/16 Infantry picked up 3 VCS vic XT320450. These suspects were evacuated to TAY NINH. The 1/16 Infantry occupied the southern and southeastern portion of the Brigade perimeter. The 1/16 Infantry CP was located at XT311469. At 1304 hrs the 1/2 Infantry closed into WILLOW RUN from AO MERCURY and upon closing became attached to the 3d Brigade. The 1/2 Infantry occupied the northern and northeastern portions of the Brigade perimeter. Their battalion CP was located at XT318472.

On 2 May at 0630 hrs the Recon Platoon of the 1/2 Infantry moved to secure a landing zone vic XT375505 for the arrival of 1st Brigade elements. The area was secured by 0655 hrs. The Recon Platoon 1/2 Infantry closed back into their battalion perimeter at 0845 hrs. The 1/2 Infantry conducted ambush patrols during the night of 2 - 3 May. The battalion CP remained in the same location. 2/2 Inf conducted care and maintenance of personnel and equipment and conducted ambush patrols during the night of 2 - 3 May. The 2/2 Infantry CP remained in the same location. The 1/16 Infantry conducted 3 patrols during the day to vic XT298450, XT308440 and XT30450. At 1350 hrs C 1/16 Infantry (-) conducted care and maintenance of personnel and equipment and conducted ambush patrols during the night of 2 - 3 May. The battalion CP remained in the same location.

On 3 May at 0700 hrs A Troop 1/4 Cavalry secured the road from vic 3d Brigade CP to vic XT3357. At 0700 hrs the 1/16 Infantry began movement by truck from vic their RON position (XT317462) to the airstrip at SUOI DA (XT3357). At 0800 hrs the 1st elements of 2/23 Infantry arrived at SUOI DA by CV2 aircraft from LAI KHE and the 1/16 Infantry departed by the same CV2 for LAI KHE to assume the mission of LAI KHE base camp security. 2/23 Infantry upon arrival moved to the area of the 3d Brigade CP by truck. The 1/16 Infantry Recon Platoon was moved from LAI KHE to PHU LOI by CV2 and attached to Division Artillery at 1612 hrs. Recon Platoon 2/23 Infantry was moved to the operational area. The 1/16 Infantry closed LAI KHE at 1610 hrs. The 2/23 Infantry closed the operational area at 1647 hours. The 1/2 Infantry conducted care and maintenance of personnel and equipment. At 2000 hrs the 1/2 Infantry moved to OBI 31 (vic XT4044).

On 4 May at 0310 hrs the village at OBI 31 was surrounded by the 1/2 Inf with A 1/2 Infantry on the west, B 1/2 Infantry on the south and southeast and C 1/2 Infantry on the north and northeast. At 0555 hrs the 1/2 Infantry was fired on by 2 VC vic XT405440. Fire was returned and 1 VC KIA (BC) was found and 2 rifles were captured (later, an airborne FAC spotted a second VC body lying near this area). At 0620 hrs a 1/2 Infantry engaged a number of VC to the south of the village vic XT408438 and killed 2 more VC and captured 2 more shoulder weapons. At 0700 hrs a Psy/Ops helicopter containing GVN officials to include the district chief made an announcement which instructed the members of the village to assemble in the market place. At 0815 hrs the GVN officials, members of the Civil Affairs teams, G5 representatives and MEDCAP teams entered the village to talk with the occupants. 2 VCS were picked up and evacuated from the village. A total of 51 people were found in the village. At 1020 hrs the 1/2 Infantry began to move back to their battalion RON position and closed that position at 1420 hrs. At 040655 May the 2/2 Infantry began to move from its RON position (XT315477) and conducted SAB operations to the southeast. At 0835 hrs the 2/2 Infantry was located in the vic of XT35433. At approximately 1000 hrs 2/2 Infantry found 4

SUBJECT: Combat Operations After Action Report (MACV/RCU/J3/32)

133  
were picked up and evacuated at 1300 hrs. The 2/2 Infantry found 3 motor bikes and several bicycles along with some documents vic XT330410. At 1600 hrs the 2/2 Infantry began to search a reported VC secret zone vic XT345408 with negative results. At 1645 hrs the 2/2 Infantry found 6 tons of fertilizer in sacks vic XT346-408. The fertilizer was destroyed. The 2/2 Infantry closed its RON position at 1800 hrs. A and C Company were located at XT352402. B Company was located at XT372396. At 040628 May 4 2/28 Infantry began moving from its RON position (XT320-470) to vic XT342446 to secure an area for B Battery 1/7 Artillery. At 0815 hrs the area was secured and B Battery moved into that location in order to support 1/2 Infantry and 2/2 Infantry. The battery was in position to fire at 0850 hrs. A 2/28 Infantry and B Battery 1/7 Artillery remained in this position throughout the night to provide support to the 2/2 Infantry. The 2/28 Infantry (-) remained vic 3d Brigade CP as security for the Brigade CP and artillery base and as Brigade Reserve.

On 5 May at 0845 hrs the 2/33 Artillery (-) moved from vic Brigade CP to vic XT332375 over Route 22 to be in position to support the 2/2 Infantry and the 2/28 Infantry. A Battery 2/33 Artillery was released from Division control and joined with the 2/33 Artillery (-). The 2/33 Artillery (-) closed into vic XT332-323 and was ready to fire at 1100 hrs. Upon closure of 2/33 Artillery (-), B Dtry 1/7 Artillery moved from vic XT340445 and closed vic 3d Brigade CP at 1158 hrs. The 1/2 Infantry remained vic Bde CP acting as Brigade reserve and security force and conducting local patrolling vic Brigade CP. 1 company of 1/2 Infantry was on 30 minute alert for possible commitment to assist the 2/28 Infantry. The battalion CP remained in the same location. The 2/2 Infantry continued to conduct saturation patrolling vic OBJ 31. All units continued to S&D from their RON positions. At 0930 hrs B 2/2 Infantry destroyed 500 pounds of rice vic XT377384. At 1055 hrs elements of the 2/2 Infantry received light sniper fire vic XT355382. They pursued with negative results. At 1200 hrs the 2/33 Artillery (-) received light sniper fire vic XT332375. 1 element of C 2/2 Infantry moved to that location to check it with negative contact. All elements of the 2/2 Infantry closed into RON positions at 1715 with no further contact. The location of the 2/2 Infantry for the night of 5-6 May was XT353402. At 1117 hrs the 2/28 Infantry began an airmobile assault from vic Brigade CP with B 2/28 Infantry assaulting a landing zone vic XT280-300. At 1129 hrs the landing zone was assaulted with negative contact. A 2/28 Infantry then conducted an airmobile assault from their RON position (XT340446) into LZ vic XT298317 at 1144 hrs with negative results. Upon landing, elements of the 2/28 Infantry began to S&D to the southeast toward a blocking position established by ARVN RPPF Forces vic XT293271 and XT310288. After initial landings, numerous personnel were seen moving out of the area to the south toward the ARVN positions. At 1250 hours the ARVN forces picked up a VC who stated that there was a VC company dug in from XT301287 to XT506292. Air and artillery were called in on these locations with unknown results. At 1450 hrs the 2/28 Infantry reported seeing 50 VC in the open vic XT292292. An attempt was made to take them under fire, but due to a sudden cloud burst this became impossible. Air and artillery were called in on this location with unknown results. The 2/28 Infantry continued its search to the southeast. At 1541 hrs A 2/28 Infantry destroyed 15 tons of rice vic XT305290. At 1700 hrs all elements of the 2/28 Infantry had completed their sweep and at 1731 hrs began extracting from a PZ vic XT300283. The 2/28 Infantry (-) moved to vic 3d Brigade CP closing at 1815 hrs. A 2/28 Infantry was moved to vic 2/33 Artillery (-) vic XT332373. During the day 3 VCS were picked up by General De Puy and General Hollingsworth.

On 6 May the 1/2 Infantry provided security for the 3d Brigade CP and acted as Brigade reserve. The 1/2 Infantry conducted local patrols vic 3d Brigade CP. At 1700 hrs 1/2 Infantry came under operational control of the 2d Brigade. At 0300 hrs the 2/2 Infantry moved from vic its RON position to surround the village vic XT328405. At 0615 hrs the 2/2 Infantry moved into the village and at 0623 hrs B 2/2 Infantry spotted 12 personnel, 7 with weapons, who upon seeing the US troops began to flee and were taken under fire. This action resulted in 1 VC KIA (BC), 1 wounded VC and 1 captured VC. A thorough search of the village resulted in 3 more VC captured. Several documents were taken from the VC and evacuated. Upon completion of the search the 2/2 Infantry conducted S&D operations to the north to vic the 3d Brigade CP. At 1230 hrs the 2/2 Infantry closed vic the Brigade CP with no further contact. The unit remained in the vic XT312460 for the night of 6-7 May 1966. A 2/28 Infantry conducted an airmobile assault into a landing zone vic XT277331. On the initial landing C 2/28 Infantry received several small arms rounds from north of the river vic XT265316. During

AVILL-WB-C

SUBJECT: Combat Operations After Action Report (MACV/ROS/J3/32)

15 June 1966

134  
stop this movement 1 platoon of C 2/28 Infantry was landed via XT257305 to establish a blocking position. This platoon apprehended about 70 persons who were checked by the Brigade IPI team and turned over to ARVN. No known VC were found at this time. C 2/28 Infantry (-) and the Recon Platoon conducted S&D operations to the southwest toward the ARVN blocking position at XT265316. No contact was made during this sweep. After the movement of C 2/28 Infantry was completed the helicopters airlifted A 2/28 Infantry (-) from vic 2/33 Artillery (-) and brought them to vic 3d Brigade CP to standby as a rapid reaction force for C 2/28 Infantry. At 1255 hrs C 2/28 Infantry and the Recon Platoon 2/28 Infantry were extracted from vic XT265320 and closed 3d Brigade CP at 1320 hrs. Upon extraction of C 2/28 Infantry the 2/33 Artillery (-) began movement by road from vic their RON position (XT332373) south to Route 22 and then to vicinity the 3d Brigade CP. At 1400 hrs a wrecker from Headquarters Battery 2/33 Artillery struck a mine vic XT 320360 damaging the truck with no casualties to personnel. The 2/33 Artillery closed vic 3d Brigade CP late on the evening of 6 May 1966. At 1700 hrs the 1/28 Infantry and the 2/18 Infantry came under the operational control of the 3d Brigade. The Brigade CP remained in the same location.

On 7 May all units of the 3d Brigade conducted care and maintenance of personnel and equipment and prepared for an operation to destroy the COSVN Headquarters (Task Force HOLLINGSWORTH). At 0900 hrs the 2/28 Infantry made adjustments in the perimeter because of the departure of the 1/2 Infantry. The 2/2 Infantry moved to provide security for helicopters parked on LZ ALLISON (XT305-460) for the night of 7 - 8 May. The 2/18 Infantry and the 1/28 Infantry remained in position. All units conducted extensive patrolling vic their perimeters with negative contact. The 3d Brigade CP remained in the same location.

On 8 May at 0803 hrs the 2/2 Infantry was airlifted from PZ ALLISON (XT308460) and made an airmobile assault on LZ ST LO (XT270970) at 0827 hrs. There was negative contact on this LZ. At 0850 hrs elements of the 2/33 Artillery landed at ST LO. A 2/33 Artillery closed into ST LO at 0915 hrs and began registering. B Battery 1/7 Artillery then began to land at ST LO. At 0915 hrs a patrol from 2/2 Infantry spotted two groups of VC vic XT263968. The VC were taken under fire but fled to the west. At 1000 hrs the weather began to get worse and cloud cover and rain developed. At 1035 hrs Brig Gen Hollingsworth called a hold to the airlift because of the weather. At this time approximately 3/4s of B Battery 1/7 Artillery had been airlifted into LZ ST LO. At 1140 hrs the weather was still bad and the decision was made to call off the rest of the lifts and extract those forces on LZ ST LO as the weather cleared. At 1200 hrs 2 men from 2/2 Infantry were killed from short 81mm mortar rounds fired by 2/2 Infantry around LZ ST LO. At 1300 hrs extraction of the 2/33 Artillery (-) started. The 2/33 Artillery (-) was returned back to the vic of the Brigade CP and closed at 1446 hrs. Upon completion of the extraction of the 2/33 Artillery (-) the 2/2 Infantry was extracted by UH1D at 1523 hrs and closed vic PZ ALLISON at 1605 hrs. The 2/18 Inf was placed under the operational control of the 2d Brigade at 1400 hrs. The 1/28 Infantry and 2/28 Infantry were on standby to lift into LZ VERDUN until this operation was cancelled. At this time the 1/28 Infantry was placed on alert to assist 2/2 Infantry if needed. The 1/28 Infantry was taken off alert upon the extraction of the 2/2 Infantry. The location of units for 8 - 9 May remained the same. The 3d Brigade reverted to command of Colonel Brodbeck upon the return of the units to PZ ALLISON.

On 9 May at 1440 hrs the 1st elements of the 2/2 Infantry were lifted by UH1D from vic their RON position to OBJ 33 (vic XT583300). 2/2 Infantry closed this position at 1638 hrs. At 1710 hrs the 2/2 Infantry was placed on 1 hour alert for possible commitment via LZ 5 (XT5855). At 1935 hrs the 2/2 Inf was taken off this alert. The RON positions for the 2/2 Infantry for the night of 9 - 10 May were vic XT584499. At 0700 hrs A Troop 1/4 Cavalry was attached to 1/28 Infantry and was given the mission of securing an engineer work party while they repaired the road from vic XT371423 to XT430450. At 1057 hrs 1/28 Infantry conducted an airmobile assault into an LZ vic XT4445 with negative contact. Upon landing, the 1/28 Infantry conducted saturation patrolling in the BEN CUI RUBBER PLANTATION to vic OBJ 71 (XT4545). At 1300 hrs A 1/28 Infantry received sniper fire from vic XT443449. At 1320 hrs A 1/28 Infantry had 1 man wounded from their own mortar fire. At 1323 hrs A 1/28 Infantry found a trench about 75 meters long vic XT456450. Artillery was called on this location with unknown results. At 1530 hrs 1/28 Infantry picked up 1 VCS vic XT451457. After questioning he was released. At 1600 hrs

15 June 1966

SUBJECT: Combat Operations After Action Report (Mn.CV/RCS/J3/32)

house at XT451452. A wire ran into the house but no radio equipment was found. At 1550 hrs B 1/28 Infantry destroyed a booby trap vic XT452447 and at 1623 hrs A 1/28 Infantry received sniper fire from XT440440. Artillery fire was placed on this location with unknown results. At 1800 hrs all units of 1/28 Infantry had closed their RON positions. Locations for the night of 9 - 10 May were A 1/28 Infantry XT453454; B 1/28 Infantry and battalion CP XT443457; C 1/28 Infantry XT447470. Troop A 1/4 Cavalry RON position was XT400437. At 1145 hrs 2/28 Inf conducted an airmobile assault into OBJ 33. 2/28 Infantry closed OBJ 33 at 1230 hrs with negative contact. Upon closing the 2/28 Infantry conducted patrols around OBJ 33 and at 1530 hrs elements of 2/28 Infantry captured 1 VCS vic XT592499. The 2/28 Infantry remained vic the 3d Brigade CP for the night of 9 - 10 May ( XT585499).

On 10 May at 1200 hrs 1/2 Infantry came under the operational control of the 3d Brigade (upon closure into DAU TIENG). At 0943 hrs the 1/2 Infantry (-) conducted local patrolling vic their RON position and care and maintenance of personnel and equipment. At 1215 hrs A 1/2 Infantry received 10 rounds of SA fire from vic XT536478. Artillery was placed on this location with unknown results. A patrol was dispatched into this area with negative contact. B 1/2 Infantry remained vic DAU TIENG and was attached to the 1/4 Cavalry (-) upon link-up. Location of 1/2 Infantry (-) for the night of 10 - 11 May was XT528473. At 0845 hrs the 2/2 Infantry moved from their RON position (XT585498) by foot and set up a base camp vic XT580540. From this location they conducted local S&D operations. At 1018 hrs the 2/2 Infantry destroyed 300 lbs of rice and 2 bunkers vic XT583522. At 1230 hrs C 2/2 Infantry destroyed a 250 lb bomb vic XT575543. The 2/2 Infantry remained in their base camp location for the night of 10 - 11 May at XT580540. At 0305 hrs the 1/28 Infantry moved to surround the village at OBJ 72 (XT464450) prior to daylight. The result of this operation was 11 VCS and 2 single shot rifles being captured. The VCS were evacuated to DAU TIENG and later it was learned that 9 of them were confirmed VC. At 0929 hrs the 1/28 Infantry made contact with 1 sniper vic XT456446. Artillery was called in with negative results. At 1011 hrs the 1/28 Infantry received sniper fire from vic XT460439. At 1053 hrs A Troop 1/4 Cavalry found 2 mortar rounds (105mm) buried in the road. They were blown in place. At 1200 hrs A Troop 1/4 Cavalry came under the operational control of the 1st Infantry Division. At 0540 hrs the 2/28 Infantry (-) moved to surround the village at OBJ 53 (XT557505 and OBJ 54 (XT568505). C 2/28 Infantry remained vic 3d Brigade CP to provide security for the artillery base. The 2/28 Infantry (-) found 5 VCS at OBJ 54 and discovered that the village at OBJ 53 was abandoned. Indications were that this was once a training center. The 2/28 Infantry (-) returned to their RON position vic Brigade CP at 0815 hrs. At 1300 hrs patrols were dispatched by the 2/28 Infantry to search the area vic the Brigade CP. At 1630 hrs one of these patrols found 3 tons of rice vic XT591499. The rice was evacuated. 2/28 Infantry remained in the vicinity of the 3d Brigade CP for the night of 10 - 11 May 1966. The 1/4 Cavalry (-) came under operational control of the 3d Brigade at 1730 hrs and was attached to B 1/2 Infantry. 1/4 Cavalry (-) moved into a RON position vic XT497480 for the night of 10 - 11 May. B Troop 1/4 Cavalry and B 1/2 Infantry RON position for the night of 10 - 11 May was XT515485.

On 11 May the 1/2 Infantry surrounded a village vic OBJ 82 (XT5446) with A and C Companies before first light. C Troop 1/4 Cavalry was attached and remained in reserve vicinity XT527474. At 0637 hrs approximately 20 VC broke through A 1/2 Infantry cordon and fled. The 1/2 Infantry (-) conducted a thorough search of the village with negative results. At 0844 hrs the 1/2 Infantry (-) moved from OBJ 82 to a blocking position vic XT547474 and linked up with A and C 1/2 Inf at 1000 hrs. The 1/2 Infantry then went into a defensive perimeter vic XT552448. They then conducted local patrolling and prepared for the next days operations. At 1700 hrs B 1/2 Infantry returned to 1/2 Infantry control and B Troop 1/4 Cavalry returned to the 1/4 Cavalry control. The 1/2 Infantry spent the night of 11 May vicinity XT552488. At 0335 hrs 2/2 Infantry moved from vic their RON position at XT580540 to surround OBJ 61 vic XT550540. At 0640 hrs the 2/2 Infantry began searching the village and found many people including a large group of males in the village. Vietnamese officials were brought out to screen the males, and as a result 1 VCS was apprehended. At 0740 hrs 2/2 Infantry found a directional antenna in a house in OBJ 61. At 1030 hrs C 2/2 Infantry received automatic weapon fire from 7 VC north of OBJ 61 vic XT552542. The VC were taken under fire with unknown results. At 1115 hrs the 2/2 Infantry surrounded OBJ 62 vic XT5554. At 1130 hrs they spotted 30 VC placing a 155mm round in the road vic XT55542. The VC were taken under fire and two were seen to be hit. The remainder of the

AVID-WB-C

15 June 1966

SUBJECT: Combat Operations After Action Report (MACV/RCS/J3/32)

136 2/2 Infantry then returned to their RON position vic XT580540 closing this location at 1500 hrs. The 2/28 Infantry moved from vic 3d Brigade CP at 0450 hrs to surround OBJ 52 (XT5649). A search was made of the village at this location. No VC were found. Several VC posters were found in the village school. The MEDCAP team was brought in to treat the villagers. The 2/28 Infantry departed OBJ 52 at 0945 hrs and closed back in vic 3d Brigade CP at 1100 hrs. The 2/28 Infantry remained in the same location. B Troop 1/4 Cavalry and B 1/2 Infantry moved at first light to surround OBJ 42 (XT5249). At 0715 hrs B Troop picked up 4 VCS in OBJ 42. At 0810 hrs B 1/2 Infantry and B Troop moved to surround OBJ 43 (XT5151). VC propaganda leaflets were also found vic OBJ 43. The search of OBJ 43 was completed at 1030 hrs. B Troop and B 1/2 Infantry set up north of OBJ 43. The Brigade CP remained in the same location.

On 12 May at 1347 hrs 1/2 Infantry conducted a combat assault into LZ DOCKETT. After an air and artillery preparation the 1/2 Infantry closed into the LZ at 1405 hrs and began to S&D to the east at 1445 hrs with C 1/2 Infantry on the north along the northern edge of the woods (XT623479) and A 1/2 Infantry along the trail (XT625470) and C 1/2 Infantry in the center. The 1/2 Infantry continued to S&D to the east with negative contact and closed into a RON position vic XT629481 at 1730 hrs. The 2/2 Infantry began moving at 0755 hrs from their RON position (XT580540) to search OBJ 63. At 0904 hrs the search was completed. The 2/2 Inf found numerous punji stakes. Foxholes indicated recent occupancy in the vicinity XT595537. A 2/2 Infantry started to S&D to the east. At the same time C 2/2 Inf began to S&D to the southeast. Headquarters and B 2/2 Infantry remained vic RON position until completion of extraction of excess equipment. At 1225 hrs 2/2 Inf spotted 3 VC vic XT575541 and took them under fire, estimating 1 VC WIA. The VC fled to the west. At 1350 hrs extraction of equipment was completed and 2/2 Inf began to move to the south and east with negative contact. At 1650 hrs 2/2 Inf closed its RON position vic XT628507. At 0700 hrs 1/28 Infantry came under the operational control of the 3d Brigade. At 0758 hrs 1/28 Infantry conducted a combat assault into LZ DUSTY (XT662583). The 1/28 Infantry closed at 0825 hrs with negative contact. At 0918 hrs a patrol from B 1/28 Infantry searched to the south. At 1058 hrs A 1/28 Infantry reached XT644610 with negative contact and began to return to LZ DUSTY closing at approximately 1230 hrs. After A 1/28 Infantry closed B and C Companies began to S&D to the west. At 1510 hrs B 1/28 Infantry found a base camp containing several buildings and some clothing vic XT619574. Upon entering the camp B 1/28 Infantry wounded 5 VC who escaped, killed 1 VC by body count and captured 1 VC. B 1/28 Infantry had 1 WIA who was evacuated. At 1510 hrs C 1/28 Infantry found a base camp containing 10 buildings and several command type buildings. There was also an assortment of clothing in the camp located vic XT621593. Upon entering the camp C 1/28 Infantry wounded and captured 1 VC. They also found 1 sewing machine and 1 typewriter. This base camp was destroyed and the VC was evacuated. At 1630 hrs 1/28 Infantry began to move back to the east to their RON position vic XT656583 and closed at 1845 hrs. At 1101 hrs the 2/28 Infantry conducted a combat assault into LZ DESIRE (XT632458). As 2/28 Infantry was landing an aerial observer spotted about 30-50 VC vic XT630443. He marked the location of the VC with violet smoke and the FAC began to call in an airstrike on the violet smoke. At this time someone on LZ DESIRE also threw violet smoke and a fighter made a GBU run over the LZ wounding 58 men and killing 2. During the evacuation of the wounded a 3d Brigade OH13 helicopter was damaged by a UH1D hovering in the vicinity. The OH13 had to be evacuated which was completed at 2411 hrs. At that time the 2/28 Infantry began to S&D east along the valley. A destroyed H21 helicopter was found vic XT629450 with tail number 62143. The 2/28 Infantry continued to S&D to the east with negative contact. The 2/28 Inf closed into its RON position vic XT657452 at 1625 hrs. At 1733 hrs 2/28 Infantry received SA fire from the northwest and south of their RON position. 2/28 Inf sent patrols to investigate with negative results. During the day the 1/2 Infantry destroyed 48 bags of cement vic XT630475. 2/2 Infantry suffered 1 WIA from an anti-personnel mine vic XT628507. The Brigade CP remained in the same location.

On 13 May at 0645 hrs C 1/2 Infantry received small arms fire from 6 VC vic XT633450. The VC were taken under fire with unknown results. At 0752 hrs C 1/2 Infantry encountered several booby traps vic XT650486 and suffered 4 WIA. The 1/2 Infantry had begun to S&D to the east when elements ran into numerous booby traps.

AVID-WB-C

15 June 1966

SUBJECT: Combat Operations After Action Report (MnCV/Rw/J3/32)

31  
vic XT683483. The 1/2 Infantry received sniper fire while entering the base camp with 1 US WIA suffered. The base camp contained 75 grenades and materials for making grenades. At 1636 hrs 1/2 Infantry (-) arrived at RON position vic XT683485. B 1/2 Infantry closed that location at 1640 hrs. At 130845 May the 2/2 Infantry began to S&D to the east from its RON position vic XT628507. At 0955 hrs 2/2 Infantry spotted 4 VC vic XT638570. The VC fled before they could be taken under effective fire. At 1015 hrs B 2/2 Infantry suffered 7 WIA from booby trapped hand grenades vic XT644496. At 1700 hrs 2/2 Infantry arrived at RON position vic XT663508. A patrol was sent to investigate a base camp spotted from the air vic XT677515. At 1725 hrs this patrol received sniper fire from vic XT677515 with negative casualties. At 0515 hrs 1/28 Infantry suffered 4 WIA and 1 KIA from a short 82mm mortar round. At 0757 hrs the 1st lift of 1/28 Infantry was lifted by UH1D from vic their RON position XT6553 to an LZ vic XT5237. The 1st lift of 1/28 Infantry departed the PZ at 0900 hrs and upon closure into LZ came under the operational control of the 2d Brigade. The 2/28 Infantry moved from vic their RON position (XT632452) to the northeast along the valley. At 0921 hrs 2/28 Infantry made contact with an unknown number of VC vic XT657450 resulting in 1 friendly WIA. Supporting fires were called in with unknown results. The 2/28 Infantry also discovered a small base camp which contained 3 VC. 2/28 Infantry estimated 1 VC KIA. After conducting a search of the area the 2/28 Inf continued their S&D operation to the northeast. At 1231 hrs elements of the 2/28 Infantry discovered a regimental size base camp. 4 VC were in the camp but they escaped. The camp consisted of a large trench system, numerous bunkers and ten huts. At 1636 hrs 1 US soldier was wounded as a result of sniper fire vic XT660459. Artillery fire was called in on this position with negative contact. Location of 2/28 Infantry for the night of 13 May was vic XT660460. The 3d Brigade CP remained in the same location.

On 14 May at 0500 hrs B 1/16 Infantry moved from LAI KHE north along Route 13 to secure an area for the Brigade CP and the 2/33 Artillery vic XT787466. At 0530 hrs B 1/16 Infantry encountered a booby trap resulting in 2 US WIA vic XT780420. B 1/16 Infantry secured the artillery base area by 0630 hrs with no further incidents. At 0955 hrs the first lift of 2/33 Artillery departed for XT787466 by CH47. The 2/33 artillery and the Brigade CP closed into XT787466 at 1045 hrs. The 1/2 Infantry began to S&D north and east from their RON position at 0600 hrs. At 0920 hrs they discovered 2 very old base camps vic XT685495. These camps showed no sign of recent use. The 1/2 Infantry was held up temporarily until the artillery was in position to fire vic XT787466. They were able to start movement again at 1200 hrs. No contact was made during the day and at 1700 hrs the 1/2 Infantry moved into a RON position vic XT702498. The 2/2 Infantry began to S&D to the east in zone at 0720 hrs. At 0910 hrs they destroyed a small base camp vic XT683511, 1 anti-personnel mine vic XT672514 and a small wooden bridge vic XT680511. At 1255 hrs the 2/2 Infantry found a base camp vic XT710512 which apparently was used for manufacture of ammunition. The camp was destroyed. The 2/2 Infantry continued to S&D to the east with no further contact and closed into a RON position vic XT732517 at 1705 hrs. At 0700 hrs 2/28 Infantry checked an area vic XT661462 where there had been some VC the night before and artillery had been fired. The 2/28 Infantry found some clothing, documents and medical supplies that had been abandoned by the VC. Upon completion of this search the 2/28 Infantry S&D along the valley. At 1017 hrs they suffered 3 WIA from a booby trap vic XT665465. The 2/28 Infantry continued to S&D east with negative contact and closed into a RON position vic XT692470 at 141700 May 1966. The Brigade CP remained in the same location.

On 15 May at 0750 hrs the 1/2 Infantry began to S&D northeast from their RON position (C.T705493) along the valley. At 0845 hrs a report was received from AIVM that there was a VC company vic XT725486. An airstrike was placed on this location and the 1/2 Infantry checked the area but with negative results. The 1/2 Infantry continued to S&D east with negative contact and spent the night in a position vic XT754492. At 0735 hrs the 2/2 Infantry began to S&D to the east in zone. At 1030 hrs the recon platoon spotted 2 VC with black shirts and branches on their backs, vicinity XT756514. The VC fled before they could be taken under fire. At 1100 hrs A 2/2 Infantry destroyed a mine vic XT777515. The 2/2 Infantry continued to S&D to the east with negative contact and closed into their RON position vic XT705517 at 1220 hrs. B 1/16 Infantry continued to provide security for the Brigade CP and artillery base vic XT787466. During the morning

AVID-WD-C

15 Jun 1966

SUBJECT: Combat Operations after Action Report. (MACV/RCS/73/32)

138 Infantry continued to secure Brigade CP and artillery base. At 0800 hrs 2/28 Infantry began to S&D east in zone. At 0955 hrs 2/28 Infantry received SA fire from an estimated VC squad vic XT723459. Artillery fire was called on this area with unknown results. At 1312 hrs 2/28 Infantry had 1 man WIA from sniper fire vic XT720470. The 2/28 Infantry continued to S&D to the east with no further contact and closed into a RON position vic XT775445 at 1730 hrs. The Brigade CP remained in the same location.

On 16 May 1966 at 1230 hrs the Brigade TAC CP moved from vic BAU LANG (XT782466) to LAI KHE. The 2/33 Artillery (-) continued to support the operation from vic of BAU LANG where they remained overnight. At 0800 hrs the 1/2 Infantry (-) moved from their RON position (XT757491) to Highway 13 vic XT785485 where they arrived at 0945 hrs. A 1/2 Infantry remained vic of RON position where at 0845 hrs a portion of them was picked up by UH1D and transported to the LAI KHE air strip to link up with aircraft to transport them to PHOUY VINH. At 1104 hrs 1/2 Infantry (-) began movement on Highway 13 by truck to the LAI KHE airstrip. The 1/2 Infantry continued movement throughout the day to PHOUY VINH and upon closure came under the control of the 1st Brigade. The 2/2 Infantry conducted operations along Highway 13 from BAU LONG to XT785435. At 0805 hrs the 2/2 Inf found a mine in the road vic XT787519. At 0815 hrs the 2/2 Infantry destroyed 2 booby-trapped CBU bombs vic XT784496 and 3 booby-trapped M26 grenades vic XT78532. At 0930 hrs a tax collection point was located vic XT792534. At 1215 hrs the 2/2 Infantry suffered 1 WIA from a sniper. At 1235 hrs the recon platoon had reported that 1 sniper jumped out of a tree at XT799508. The recon platoon pursued and killed 2 VC by body count and captured 2 weapons and at 1330 hrs C 2/2 Infantry killed 1 VC (PO) and captured 1 weapon possibly wounding another VC vicinity XT789469. At 1408 hrs recon platoon 2/2 Infantry destroyed four 55 gallon drums of gasoline and six 5 gallon containers of oil vic XT797512. At 1516 hrs C 2/2 Infantry destroyed a mine vic XT784492. It had about 100 meters of wire leading from the mine. At 1525 hrs C 2/2 Infantry destroyed a CBU bomb rigged as a mine vic XT785443 and at 1540 hrs 2/2 Infantry received sniper fire at XT790397 and placed 4.2 inch mortar fire on this area with unknown results. At 1615 hrs C 2/2 Infantry destroyed an AF 2.75 inch rocket rigged as a mine vic XT785492. At about 1710 hrs the ARVN convoy began passing the area secured by 2/2 Infantry. After the convoy cleared the area the 2/2 Infantry moved into a RON position vic XT785517 at 1945 hrs. At 160355 hrs May C 1/16 Infantry moved from LAI KHE to surround AP BEN DONG SO vic XT792431 in conjunction with the 2/28 Infantry and to secure Highway 13 from the north check point at LAI KHE to XT790420. At 0905 hrs C 1/16 Infantry suffered 1 KIA and 3 WIA from a claymore mine vic XT783437. At 1645 hrs B 1/16 Infantry received sniper fire vic XT786475. At 1645 hrs a man from A Company set off a pressure mine along the road vic XT793435 destroying a 105 jeep and resulting in 1 KIA and 2 WIA. At 1837 hrs the ARVN convoy cleared the 1/16 Infantry area and at this time the 1/16 Infantry moved into a RON position vic XT786464. At 1910 hrs a man hit a pressure mine resulting in 1 WIA. 1/16 Infantry closed into their RON position at 2130 hrs. At 0025 hrs 2/28 Infantry moved from its RON position (XT775445) to surround the village of AP BEN DONG SO in conjunction with C 1/16 Infantry. The village was searched and a total of 75 VCS were picked up at 0330 hrs. The VC set off a command detonated mine against the 2/28 Infantry with negative results vic XT795438. At 0900 hrs the 2/28 Infantry received SA and M79 fire from vic XT794436. Mortar fire was placed on this area with unknown results. At 1130 hrs B 2/28 Infantry moved by truck to LAI KHE and at 1536 hrs the 2/28 Infantry (-) was relieved in place by the 1/16 Infantry and moved by truck to LAI KHE closing at 1604 hrs and assuming base camp security.

On 17 May 1966 the 2/2 Infantry and the 1/16 Infantry operated along Highway 13 from BAU LONG (XT7954) to LAI KHE for passage of an ARVN convoy to the south. The 2/33 Artillery (-) continued to support the operation from vic XT787466. The 1/16 Infantry encountered numerous booby traps and was harassed by small groups of VC throughout the day with negative casualties. The ARVN convoy cleared the 3d Brigade TAOR at 1500 hrs and all units began to return to LAI KHE by vehicle. All units closed into LAI KHE at 171730 May 1966 terminating Operation BIRMINGHAM.

## a. Captured Equipment:

8.5 tons	Captured Rice
4 lbs	Tobacco
3 bags	Medical Supplies
100 + lbs	Documents
320	Separate Documents
3	Shot-guns
11	Rifles
4	Carbines
1	M14 Rifle
1	Sub-machinegun
1	Tape Recorder
1	Bicycles
1	Sewing Machine
1	Water Pump (6.25 HP)
2	292 Antenna
2	Radio Antenna
1	Typewriter
1	Bell Shape Charge Mine
1	Claymore Mine
1	Motor Scooter
1	Barbed Wire
1200 lbs	Air Gun
8	

## b. Destroyed Equipment:

23 tons.	Rice
86	Grenades
60 lbs	Tobacco
50 lbs	Tea
1000 vials	Penicillin
2 tons (+870 lbs)	Salt
266	Huts
25	Hogs
25	Chickens
9	Bicycles
1	Sewing Machine
75 gallons	Syrup
960 gallons	Sauce
1	Diesel Engine
9	Oxcarts
12	Oxen
1	Rice Hucker
200	Bars Peanut Brittle Candy
5	Claymore Mines
2	Anti-Personnel Mines
54	CDU bomblets
1	250 lb bomb
5	105mm rounds
1	155mm round
70	Picks and Shovels
500 lbs	Wreck
15 lbs	1430 Batteries
60 lbs	Flour
1	Peanuts
6 tons	Pean
136	Bicycle Repair Shop
48 bags	Fertilizer
975 gallons	Small Arms Rounds
900	Cement
3000 lbs	Gasoline
300 lbs	Fuse Assemblies
	Ergon Salts
	TNT

145

## c. Friendly Losses:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>KIA</u>
24 Apr 66	3	0
25 Apr 66	1	0
26 Apr 66	3	4
27 Apr 66	3	0
28 Apr 66	0	0
29 Apr 66	4	0
30 Apr 66	10	2
1 May 66	2	2
2 May 66	0	0
3 May 66	0	0
4 May 66	0	0
5 May 66	0	0
6 May 66	0	0
7 May 66	0	0
8 May 66	2	1
9 May 66	0	0
10 May 66	0	0
11 May 66	1	0
12 May 66	71	6
13 May 66	19	1
14 May 66	3	0
15 May 66	1	0
16 May 66	11	3
17 May 66	0	0
	<u>139</u>	<u>19</u>

CONFIDENTIAL

## d. Enemy Losses:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>KIA(EC)</u>	<u>KIA(POS)</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>WIA(EST)</u>	<u>VCG</u>	<u>VCS</u>
24 Apr 66	0	0	0	0	0	0
25 Apr 66	0	0	1	0	0	0
26 Apr 66	11	7	0	0	0	0
27 Apr 66	0	0	0	0	0	0
28 Apr 66	0	0	0	0	0	0
29 Apr 66	0	0	0	0	0	0
30 Apr 66	0	2	0	0	0	0
1 May 66	0	1	0	0	0	0
2 May 66	0	0	0	0	0	0
3 May 66	0	0	0	0	0	0
4 May 66	0	0	0	0	0	0
5 May 66	0	0	0	0	0	0
6 May 66	0	0	0	0	0	0
7 May 66	0	0	0	0	0	0
8 May 66	0	0	0	0	0	0
9 May 66	0	0	0	0	0	0
10 May 66	0	0	0	0	0	0
11 May 66	0	0	0	0	0	0
12 May 66	1	0	0	0	0	0
13 May 66	0	2	0	0	0	0
14 May 66	0	1	0	0	0	0
15 May 66	0	0	0	0	0	0
16 May 66	3	3	0	0	0	0
17 May 66	0	0	0	0	0	0
	<u>24</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>123</u>

## 13. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS:

The logistical base for the 3d Brigade Task Force was with the Division base at 2AY NIMI 3. The Brigade elements normally resupplied from 0600-0800 hrs and from 1500-1800 hrs daily by UH1D and CH47 helicopters. At least two hot meals were provided daily to include cold drinks and comfort items within the tactical situation permitted. The Brigade averaged 50 UH1D sorties per day with a total

CONFIDENTIAL

Tonnage of 34.5 tons per day. The artillery battalion averaged 10 sorties per day with total tonnage of 36 tons by CH47. Medical evacuation and support was provided by Division elements. Laundry was returned to LAI KHM as required for washing by 624th QM. The battalion lots of exchange clothing provided by the Class I section of 1st S&T Battalion did not work out as well as planned. There were not enough uniforms for a change for every man and most of the uniforms extra large in size. During the period 14 - 16 May 1966 it became necessary to displace elements of the Brigade Trains to the base camp in order to provide adequate logistical support. The time and distance and aircraft availability hampered this requirement. The move was conducted with available UH1D helicopter but it is recommended that in future operations transport fixed wing aircraft be used for this type of movement.

14. SPECIAL EQUIPMENT AND TECHNIQUES:

**CONFIDENTIAL**

a. The 2/23 Infantry experimented with the new cannister round for the M79 grenade launcher. This round proves marginal in its initial tests. The range is quite limited and it is necessary to aim extremely low when engaging targets at a distance of 40 meters. In order to train personnel in the employment of this ammunition and develop confidence it is recommended that sufficiently large numbers of this ammunition be issued to train all personnel.

b. Chain saws were utilized for clearing helicopter landing pads in dense jungle.

15. COMMANDER'S ANALYSIS:

Some lessons learned during Operation BIRMINGHAM were:

a. Surrounding objectives prior to first light by moving elements during the hours of darkness proved to be very effective and will be used more often in the future.

b. There is a definite need for marksmanship and rapid fire training within the Brigade.

In many cases during Operation BIRMINGHAM the VC were able to escape because of the inability to kill rapidly on the part of our soldiers.

c. Not enough LOH's are available. Each maintenance company needs exclusive use of an LOH for two or three hours per day when moving in the jungle.

d. The length of S&D operations during the rainy season should be limited to 8 - 10 days for health reasons. Many of Brigade personnel developed sores, rashes, and respiratory ailments after about 8 days due to wet clothing and boots.

e. There is a definite need for training of 81mm mortar crews to eliminate accidents.

f. Pathfinders supporting the 3d Brigade must know the exact pickup time and number of aircraft available prior to the conduct of an operation. The pathfinders must be at the pickup site no later than one hour prior to arrival of the aircraft.

g. Each company sized unit needs a drying box or room for radios and optional equipment. Some radios went to the field in a damp condition and soon gave out. To start with dry radios and batteries would insure longer availability.

COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

1. The selection of the 3d Brigade to be the unit to attack COSVN Headquarters is an indication of the competence and military capabilities of the units and staff that comprise our fighting team. The attack was progressing nicely and had the